

17/3
Public (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. ~~354~~ 312

Dated 19-3-97.

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Receiving a memorandum from the Hon.
Mr J. D. Russell the subject of his hold-
ing the Persian and Hindustani Transla-
torship.

BACK PAPERS.

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

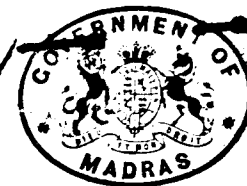
FURTHER PAPERS.

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

NOTE FOR THE CHIEF SECRETARY

D. O.

901
Translator



GOVERNMENT OFFICE ST. GEORGE,

6 January 1898.

Orders are requested.

whether this should finally dear Sir,

whether it may be kept for future reference

G.O. No. 152 in which the Secy says that he does not wish any action to be taken now was until now in circulation.

Submitted that this may be recorded.
18/3/97 J.D.B. 18/3/97

With reference to your D.O. of the 4th instant I enclose G.O. No. 312 Pub, dated 19-3-97, which contains Secy's memorandum regarding the Hindustani Translationship.

Yours sincerely
A. Simha

A. Simha Secy
with Secretary to H.R. the forerunner

[G.]
9
200-22-1-08.

(1897) Department.

Note for eb

D. O. No. 145

Please see D.O. 152 in fo. 251A
22-3-97

in the linked file The Hon'ble Mr
Rees does not wish ^{action} any to
be taken on this now.

gob.
26/2/17
D. O.

26.2.97

From The Hon'ble J. D. Rees.

No.

Dated 12th Feb 97

Received 16-2-97

Registered 16-2-97

Enclosures one.

Spare copies.

Order
mis

N^o 312
~~251~~ 19.3.97.

Recorded
(from C.S. orders)

gob.
for C.S. 19/3/97

SUBJECT.

Enclosing a memo.
regarding the Persian
Hindustani Translations.

C.A. 1000-put
up papers
to check the
statements
made. 4.9.97.
As. 2000
gob.
16/2/97
Shd the memo be completed
referred now please. Please
see the question & the answer
flagged in the linked file
vin 17/4/97

The Persian Hindustani Translatorship

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	1247	Pub	18-2-97
	217	Pub	2-10-96
	1092	Pub	14-9-96
	1001	Pub	4-2-97
	103	Pub	27-7-96
	771-3	Pub	25-11-95
	923	Pub	19-11-95
	1346	Pub	19-11-95
	957	Pub	10-4-95
	851	Pub	5-3-95
	156-6	Pub	15-1-95

FURTHER PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	926	Pub	5-12-94
	684	Pub	18-9-94
	513	Pub	15-7-90
	434	Pub	14-6-90
	144-5	Pub	26-2-90
	829	Pub	19-10-89
	718-18	Pub	17-10-88
	444	Pub	22-5-88
	1097	Pub	23-11-88
	149	Pub	13-7-89

1385 of 19.10.00 R

In 1889 it was proposed to appoint Natives of India to be Translators to Government. On this occasion Sir Philip Hutchins minuted as follows:—

"As to the Tamil and Telugu appointments, I am disposed to think we can get perfectly competent and trustworthy natives. The Hindustani appointment is quite different, as Mr. Rees shows. I do not think we can get a competent native."

Sir Henry Stokes minuted to the following effect:—"I agree that the Persian and Hindustani Translatorship is a special one, and need not be disturbed at present."

In 1889 Mr. Garstin minuted.—"There may be cases where an European Officer, e.g., Mr. Rees, would be best from his knowledge of the Vernacular for the post, and as such he will be preferred."

Sir Philip Hutchins refers to my memorandum. I had pointed out that natives of the country might be better qualified for the posts of Tamil and Telugu translators, both of which I had myself held for short periods, persons possessed of a knowledge of Persian and Hindustani, and also of sufficient English Education to understand and translate the technical language of Acts and Regulations would be difficult to find. I also pointed out that no officer could be an efficient interpreter in Persian unless he possessed some acquaintance with Arabic, the vocabulary of which is largely used and quotations from which are so profusely made in literary Persian works, and also pointed out that the few Mahomedans who had a literary acquaintance with English, generally knew little or no Persian and Arabic, while those of the old school, who were acquainted with Persian and Arabic, as a rule knew no English.

Since these minutes (the dates of which I have, so that they can be found in the Secretariat) were recorded, the Government of India upon the retirement of the Military Examiner in Hindustani in 1895, ordered that, that his appointment should be abolished and that the work should be done by the Persian and Hindustani Translator. This change was carried out resulting in a saving of nearly Rs. 2,000 a month and when in 1895 I proceeded to Calcutta on duty, it was considered that the fact that the Translator now has to examine large numbers of military officers made it still more unsuitable than ever that the post should be held by a native of the country, supposing a person qualified could be found. Mr. Marsden was accordingly appointed to act.

The question also arose in 1895, whether it would be convenient for the Translatorship to be held by an officer who was stationed in Travancore. I represented that no inconvenience was likely to result as the President of Board of Examiners who is responsible and under whom Translator works, made no objection, and if inconvenience did result it would then be time to consider the necessity for replacing an officer, who had performed the duties satisfactorily, by another, simply because of the former's geographical position at the moment. As a fact, officers

There can I submit be no objection to, but advantage in, the Resident visiting Madras. An ~~argument~~ argument was used on this occasion to the effect that there was something 'undignified' on the part of the Resident in holding such an office. The acceptance of this theory would involve also the acceptance of the doctrine that Oriental languages were in themselves unworthy of study, and indeed that to examine in them is less dignified than to examine in Oriental Law; for Sir Henry Maine who was successively Member of the Viceroy's and Secretary of State's Executive Councils, was examiner for the Indian Civil Service in Oriental Law and examined myself, while he was holding the latter high office. No such theory could I think be maintained, but it deserves attention because it was ~~stated~~ stated by an officer at the head of the Civil Service. There are no better reasons in this case I submit than in any other for ousting an occupant from his appointment and it would be sufficient to deal with inconveniences when they are proved to arise. None such were even alleged by President of Board of Examiners or by the Military authorities to have occurred in 1895, and it cannot be contended that the Resident in Travancore has not sufficient time for the discharge, in addition to those of his own, of the duties of this office, which are by no means onerous, yet can only be discharged by one who has been at considerable expense and pains to qualify.

In short I would urge that an officer who ~~has~~ passed the High Proficiency Test in Tamil, Telugu, Persian and Hindustani, the Higher Standard in Arabic, and the Interpreter test in Russian, and has served the Government as Translator in Tamil, Telugu, Persian and Hindustani might be considered worthy of encouragement, and even perhaps of some little indulgence. Many officers have been given high and permanent preferment for acquisitions of the like character, and of no greater extent. *I do not think any officer serving in India has been at greater pains to qualify for an appointment as Persian or native languages.*

At any rate I would urge that until difficulty is found to result from my tenure I may not be ejected. ~~and that in such a case I should be allowed to continue in my present position.~~

~~_____~~ If I should be able to perform the duties, I submit that there can be no objection to drawing Rs. 500 a month in addition to pay of my other appointment. Other officers have not been at the *my command*

Though I was appointed Persian and Hindustani Translator by Sir M. E. Grant Duff in 1885 when I relinquished the Tamil Translatorship in favour of a brother officer, I vacated the office in 1886 on leave, and in 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891 when Private Secretary, during 1893 when in Russia, and from December 1895 to March 1896 when in Calcutta, and from Decr to March in 1897 when in Calcutta.

10 I have therefore drawn the pay for a comparatively short period, and I would urge that it will be no excessive indulgence to allow me to retain the office till ~~the~~ I take long furlough, if indeed any sound argument can be advanced for depriving me of it till I retire.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces had no objection to offer to my performing the duties of Examiner in Hindustani while in Travancore. I ~~was~~ ascertained this fact.

In case it should be urged that Travancore contains somewhat remote stations, so I may say does the range of Mr. Marsden for instance, one of the few officers who could be appointed to succeed me. It would be my duty to arrange for proper despatch of business, or to resign an office to which I could not do justice.

~~J. D. REES~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~August 5th, 1896.~~

When I performed the duties of Translator & Examiner again in Aug: Sep: Oct & Nov. 1896 in Travancore, no inconvenience or delay was found to occur, though papers had to be set & a quarterly examination to be conducted during these months, & although during them I travelled in the remotest parts of the State.

9022

Poa: Axiid: Inverte

Calcutta

12 Feb. 1897.

12 / ii / 97

My dear Prince,

With reference to the following

CHIEF SECRETARY
16-FEB. 1897
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

A MEMO BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY
XXXII. Has the attention of the Government
been drawn to the article in the *Muhammadian
Advocate of India* of November 1896 regarding the
appointment of Persian and Hindustani Trans-
lator.

I beg to enclose a memo: (to be
substituted for one on the same
subject lodged with Arundel,
which is now out of date.)

If it should be necessary
I would ask you to kindly cause
this memo to be considered with any
other papers, representations,

~~...~~
~~...~~
avoid on
proposals made on this
subject, in which I have
a very considerable pecuniary
& literary interest, apart
from the public aspects
of the case.

Yours sincerely
J. O. Jones

Yours truly
J. Frederick Price
C. P. D.