

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 164	Press ~~Mis.~~
372.273	
Dated	29. 7. 1862

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
29th July 1862.*

No. 372. Read the following letter from R. E. MASTER, Esq., Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 13th May 1862, No. 645/52:—

SIR,

1. As directed in the Order of Government dated 2nd April 1862, No. 728, I have the honor to annex answers to the queries contained in paragraph 3 of the letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to the Officiating Adjutant General of the Army, dated 24th February 1862, No. 749, on the subject of the tests to which Officers on probation in the Staff Corps should be subjected, so far as my Department is concerned.

2. In the event of the test being adopted I consider that all the Assistants whether belonging to the Staff Corps, to Regiments or to the Uncovenanted Service should be subjected to it.

Answers to queries in letter from the Secretary to Government of India, Military Department, to Officiating Adjutant General of the Army, dated 24th February 1862, No. 749.

1st.—What period of probation should be required?

1st.—No exact period can be laid down as it must vary according to the opportunities afforded to the Candidates as proposed in the answer to question 6.

2nd.—What should be the nature (subjects) of examinations, and what the degree of proficiency in them to be required.

2nd.—It is very desirable that Assistants in the Settlement Department should have some knowledge of the Revenue Administration of the country. Experience in the actual operations of classification and demarcation which they superintend in the field is acquired without difficulty, but something more than this is necessary before they can be qualified for promotion to the grade of a Deputy Director, in which they will be called upon, not only to go through all the processes requisite for the formation of the assessment in the Districts to be settled, and to frame proposals upon them but also to carry out the new Settlement after it has received the sanction of Government, and to perform the functions of a Collector in making the first Jambundy after the Settlement is introduced. Those who have hitherto filled the office of a Deputy Director came to their task after a long apprenticeship in the Revenue Department, having served as Assistant, Head Assistant or Sub-Collector. The Military or Uncovenanted Assistant Directors who may hereafter be promoted to the grade of Deputy Director will in most cases want previous Revenue experience, but as without it they will be unfit to discharge the important and responsible duties of the office, it will be advisable if opportunities can be afforded to them of acquiring the requisite knowledge, to subject them to examination for the purpose of testing their acquirements. The examination passed by Assistant Collectors for the second standard as far as it relates to Revenue duties, may be adopted as a suitable test. The part of it which relates to Magisterial duties may be omitted, the Officers of the Settlement Department having nothing to do with the administration of criminal justice, as also, the vernacular part for which a separate departmental test has already been provided.

3rd.—By what mode of examination could this proficiency be best ascertained?

3rd.—The same mode of examination, as that adopted to test the acquirements of Covenanted Assistant Collectors for the second standard.

4th.—Who should be the Examiners?

4th.—The Board of Examiners through Committees at up-country stations nominated by them.

5th.—What arrangement could be made to afford sufficient facilities to Officers for being examined and yet ensure as far as possible equality of standard in the examinations?

5th.—The ordinary arrangements of the Board of Examiners and the nomination of Committees would ensure these objects.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
29th July 1862.*

6th.—What arrangements should be made to afford Candidates opportunities of attaining the knowledge required from them?

acquiring it. * If I suggest an arrangement which may be found impracticable, or difficult to carry out, it is because I see no other mode of enabling the Assistants to acquire the information and experience which it is so important they should possess. The suggestion is that the Assistant Directors should for a time do duty under the Collectors, and by working as Deputy Collectors obtain a practical insight into the Revenue system. I know that there are many obstacles to the adoption of this plan, such as the difficulty of providing for the performance of the duties as well as for the pay of the Assistants while detached, but as the only suggestion that occurs to me, I throw it out.

(Signed) R. E. MASTER,
Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement.

No. 373.

ORDER THEREON, 29th July 1862, No. 1,611.

1. The Government are of opinion that it will be sufficient, in the first instance, to require that Officers seeking admission into the Revenue Settlement Department should prior to their appointment pass a simple colloquial test in the language of the District in which they may seek employment. This test should be that prescribed for Officers of the Mofussil Police, viz., reading and translating an original Native letter of moderate difficulty, and conversing fluently with Natives on ordinary subjects.

2. A year's probation will be given from the date of appointment, within which period they will be required to pass a more severe, but still a colloquial, examination in the vernacular of their District, and their knowledge of their work, and of the general principles of classification and demarcation, will be subjected to such proof as the Board of Examiners in communication with the Director shall decide.

3. Any further test is unnecessary. The Department is only a temporary one, and its simpler duties easy and to be acquired only by practice. The Government will rarely, if ever, select untrained Military Officers without any Revenue experience to frame and introduce Settlements, and it would therefore be idle to attempt to prescribe a test with that object.

4. The first examination prior to admission should be passed in Madras before the Board of Examiners. The subsequent one might be passed either in Madras or before a Local Committee up-country.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Acting Chief Secretary.

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to Government of India Military Department
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is acquired without difficulty,
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necessary before they can be qual-
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of a Deputy Director, in which
they will be called upon, not
only to go through all the processes
requisite for the formation of
the assessment in the districts
to be settled, and to frame propo-
sals upon them but also to carry
out*

out the new settlement, after it has received the sanction of Government, and to perform the functions of a Collector, in making the first survey, and after the settlement is introduced. Those who have hitherto filled the Office of a Deputy Director came to this task after a long apprenticeship in the Revenue Department, having served as Assistant, Second Assistant or Sub Collector. The military or Unencumbered Assistant Directors are now hereafter to be promoted to the grade of Deputy Director and in such cases want previous Revenue experience, but as it seems it they will be unfit to discharge the important and responsible duties of the Office, it will be advisable if opportunities can be afforded to them of acquiring the requisite knowledge, to subject them to examination for the purpose of testing their acquirements. The examination passed in Assistant Collectors for the Second Standard as far as it relates to Revenue duties, may be adopted as a suitable test. The part of it which relates to Magisterial duties may be omitted, the officers of

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5th The ordinary arrangements of the Board of Examiners and the nomination of Committees would ensure these objects.

6th What arrangements should be made to afford candidates

6th This is the most difficult of all the questions. The Assistant Directors while employed in their

Candidates of opportunity of attaining the knowledge required from them?

Their immediate duties leave not only no leisure for the acquisition of this special knowledge, but they lack opportunities of acquiring it. If I suggest an arrangement which may be found impracticable, or difficult to carry out, it is because I see no other mode of enabling the Assistants to acquire the information and experience which it is so important they should possess. The suggestion is that the Assistant Directors should for a time do duty under the Collectors, and by working as Deputy Collectors obtain a practical insight into the Revenue system. I know that there are many obstacles to the adoption of this plan such as the difficulty of providing for the performance of the duties as well as for the pay of the Assistants while detached, but as the only suggestion that occurs to me, I throw it out.

Wm. A.

Chief Director of Revenue & Customs

very important to
train the men
in the most
efficient manner
possible. This is
the only way
of getting them
acquainted with
the Revenue
system. I have
no doubt that
this plan is
the best one
for the purpose.

Wm. A.

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