

INDIA (CIVIL SERVICE).

RETURN

Pursuant to an Address of the HOUSE OF LORDS, dated 26th February 1884,

FOR

COPIES OF EXTRACTS of any CORRESPONDENCE that has passed since 1881 between the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA and the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL as to "CONSTITUTIONAL ROBUSTNESS" in the case of CANDIDATES selected for the COVENANTED CIVIL SERVICE OF INDIA.

(Lord Strafford.)

India Office, }
4th March, 1884. }

{ J. K. CROSS,
Under Secretary of State for India.

Ordered to be printed 6th March 1884.

R E T U R N, &c.

EXTRACT from LETTER from the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL, dated 31st January 1882. Political, No. 5.

“3. Not only is it necessary that the reinforcements so urgently asked for should be provided, but also that greater care should be taken that gentlemen selected for the Civil Service should possess constitutional robustness, as the service at present comprises several members who cannot sustain the labours of district work.”

EXTRACT from DESPATCH from the SECRETARY OF STATE to the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, dated 27th April 1882. Public, No. 4.

“4. With reference to your observations on the importance of constitutional robustness in the case of young men selected for the Civil Service, I would request your Excellency in Council to furnish me with full particulars respecting the cases to which they relate, including the dates of their arrival in India.”

EXTRACT from LETTER from the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL, dated 8th August 1882. General, No. 25.

“2. In reply, we have the honour to forward the accompanying list,† furnishing, as fully as we can, the information called for by your Lordship, and to state that in our opinion the list shows that too many gentlemen have been sent out who were not sufficiently robust to stand the work, and that, considering the great advantages of the Civil Service, Government have a right to expect that the candidates possess the physical strength without which they cannot efficiently perform their duties.”

EXTRACT from DESPATCH from the SECRETARY OF STATE to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, dated 31st January 1883. Public, No. 12.

MY LORD MARQUIS,

Para. 1. It is within the knowledge of your Excellency in Council that in a Despatch, No. 5, Political, dated the 31st of January 1882 * * * * * the Government of Bombay urged that greater care should be taken that gentlemen selected for the Civil Service should possess constitutional robustness, as the Bombay branch of the Service comprised several members who could not sustain the labours of district work. * * * * *

2. Your Lordship in Council will agree with me in thinking it highly important that I should be informed whether facts have been observed in regard to the other branches of the Covenanted Civil Service which in any way correspond to those reported to me from Bombay. I therefore request your Excellency to communicate with the Local Governments and Administrations under the Government of India, and to desire them to state, for my information, whether, during the period to which the Bombay report refers, their experience of the portion of the Civil Service recruited by competition has any resemblance to the experience of the Bombay Government. * * * * *

4. * * * * * I should be glad to learn whether the Local Governments and Administrations have observed any difference in physical vigour between the civilians so selected and trained and the members of the Service who came under the older system.

† Not given in this Return.

5. I have to-day addressed a Despatch† on this subject to the Government of Madras.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER from the GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS to the SECRETARY OF STATE,
dated 30th April 1883. Public, No. 7.

MY LORD,

ADVERTING to your Lordship's Confidential Despatch, dated 31st January last, No. 4, Public, we have the honour to enclose a list‡ of Covenanted Civil Servants who have joined the Madras Civil Service since 1862. * * * *

4. We have no reason on the whole to think that the selected candidates were not sufficiently robust.

5. We have not thought it necessary to consult any officers outside the Secretariat. The general knowledge regarding the Civil Service possessed by the members of Government enables us to state that the majority of the service are men of average health.

6. The death-rate has not been high, and the retirements from inability to stand an Indian climate have been few.

7. * * * We have at present observed no difference in physical vigour between the selected candidates of 1881-82 and those of previous years.

LETTER from the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY OF STATE, dated 6th July 1883.
Public, No. 39.

MY LORD,

Simla, the 6th July 1883.

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch, No. 12, dated 31st January 1883, in which, with reference to a representation made by the Government of Bombay, as to the importance of securing better guarantees for constitutional robustness in the case of candidates selected for the Covenanted Civil Service, we were requested to call upon the Local Governments and Administrations under the Government of India for confidential reports as to whether their experience of the portion of the Civil Service recruited by competition has any resemblance to the experience of the Bombay Government. Your Lordship further expressed a wish to be informed whether any difference in physical vigour has been observed between civilians selected under the recent regulation lowering the minimum of age and those members of the Service who came out under the old system.

2. In reply, we beg to transmit copies of the reports which we have obtained from Local Governments and Administrations as entered in the annexed list. We are glad to find that the experience of Bombay is not repeated in other parts of India, and that cases of physical or mental failure which have occurred among members of the Civil Service recruited by competition in England have not been more numerous than might be expected to occur among any similar body of men exposed to an Indian climate.

3. As regards civilians selected and trained under the recent regulations who come out at an earlier age than their predecessors, we may observe that they have scarcely been long enough in the country to enable a satisfactory opinion to be formed as to their physical qualifications, but that, so far as observation has gone, they do not appear to be constitutionally less robust.

We have, &c.
(Signed) RIPON.
E. BARING.
T. F. WILSON.
C. P. ILBERT.
S. C. BAYLEY.
T. C. HOPE.

† A similar Despatch, not given in this Return.

‡ This list is not given in this Return.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER from F. B. PEACOCK, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Judicial, Political, and Appointments Departments, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Home Department, dated Darjeeling, 30th May 1883, No. 1055 A.D.

* * * * *

Para. 2. Looking to the dangers of the climate in these provinces, and to the large number of gentlemen who have entered the service since 1862, this Government has, the Lieutenant-Governor considers, little ground for complaint. The known cases of insanity * * are, perhaps, hardly more numerous than might occur in a like number of men in any class of life exposed to such a climate and to such work as officers experience in Bengal. In most of the cases * * insanity appeared at an early part of their Indian careers * * *

3. With regard to the question whether any difference has been observed in the physical vigour of civilians selected and trained under the recent regulation which lowered the maximum limit of age and the members of the service who came out to this country under the older system, all the Commissioners agree in the opinion that there has been no difference in physical vigour between the two classes. The Commissioner of Burdwan, whilst remarking that he has observed no difference, adds that he has had six of the "new men" under him, one of whom was the most successful athlete of his year at Oxford, and that all the rest are "healthy, sturdy youths." The Commissioner of Orissa remarks that it is said that there is less risk to health in coming to India at an early age, and it is possible that the present men may fare somewhat better than those who preceded them; but he adds that he cannot say that he has noticed any perceptible difference. For his own part, Mr. Rivers Thompson, while admitting that he has not perceived any difference between the physical vigour of the two classes, is inclined to concur in the view that men have a better chance of escaping the evils of and of becoming more readily acclimatised to the country by coming out at the earlier age.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER from R. SMEATON, Esq., Permanent Secretary to Government, N.W. Provinces and Oudh, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, Home Department, dated Naini Tal, 8th June 1883, No. 2036.

* * * * *

Para. 2. The experience of the Bombay Government as to the general condition of the service is not that of the Government of these Provinces. The question whether the average robustness of covenanted civilians has decreased since 1862 is a very difficult one to answer, as the conditions and circumstances of the service have changed considerably in the last 20 years. The work is as hard as, probably harder than, it was 20 years ago; while on the other hand, the conditions of life are easier and healthier in many parts of the country than before 1862.

3. * * * This Government has not sufficient data before it to come to a conclusion as to whether there is any difference in physical vigour between civilians selected and trained under the recent regulation which lowered the maximum limit of age and members of the service who came out under the older system. It may be that younger men cannot stand the hard competitive training in England so well as older men, and those who now pass may consequently come out with constitutions less hardy than formerly. But this is only one drawback to be set against other advantages on the side of sending men out early to India.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER from W. M. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, Home Department, dated Simla, 29th May 1883, No. 35 S.

* * * * *

The two points upon which the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor has been called for are—

- (1.) Whether the Lieutenant-Governor's experience of the portion of the Civil Service recruited by competition in the Punjab has any resemblance to the experience of the Bombay Government; and

(2.) Whether any difference in physical vigour has been observed between the civilians selected and trained under the recent regulation which lowered the maximum limit of age and members of the service who came under the older system.

2. In reply I am desired to submit a statement† of the 98 civilians who since the year 1862 have been posted to the Punjab, showing the date of their arrival in India, their age on arrival, and the remarks of his honour the Lieutenant-Governor regarding their physique and efficiency. It will be seen that of the 98 civilians entered in this list, 12 have been transferred to other Governments or employed under the orders of the Government of India. Of the remainder six have died, one was killed at Kabul, and three resigned (one of them from ill health). Of the remaining 76, there are only five who are constitutionally weak; the remainder are for the most part strong men, and taking them all round they are, the Lieutenant-Governor believes, as efficient a set of public officers as could have been procured.

3. Sir Charles Aitchison is unable to discover any difference between the physique of the men who have been selected at an earlier age and of those who were appointed under the former rules. But many of the latter came out before reaching the maximum age permissible, and the effect of the reduction cannot perhaps be properly gauged for some years to come.

LETTER from A. H. L. FRASER, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, Home Department, dated Nagpur, 20th April 1883, No. O.

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 13/444, dated 19th ultimo, regarding the constitutional robustness of the members of the Civil Service selected by competition.

2. I am to say that the Chief Commissioner has found these gentlemen as a class generally more intellectual and little less vigorous in body than the old Haileybury officers. They may be slightly inferior physically, but they are very far from being unfit for their work. The Chief Commissioner's experience, then, does not coincide with that of the Government of Bombay.

3. Two young civilians serving in this Province have died within the last few years, viz., Mr. A.B., who entered the service in November 1874, and died on 9th December 1877; and Mr. C.D., who entered the service in December 1872, and died in November 1882. The former died of consumption which was hereditary, the latter of a complication of diseases not to be attributed to his hard study in early life. A third officer, Mr. E.F., who entered the service in November 1876, has just left India on leave, on medical certificate, in a shattered state of health. But his disease also is hereditary. The other civilians serving in this Province enjoy very fairly good health, and are physically quite fit for their duties.

4. The Chief Commissioner cannot say that he has any good grounds for alleging that there is any observable difference in physical vigour between the civilians selected and trained under the recent regulations and the more senior competition men. The former are very nearly, if not quite, as vigorous as the latter.

EXTRACT from LETTER from G. D. BURGESS, Esq., Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, Home Department, dated Rangoon, 25th April, 1883, No. 521, C. S.

* * * * *

2. The points upon which report is required are first, whether the Chief Commissioner's experience of the members of the Civil Service appointed to British Burma in and since 1862 has any resemblance to the experience of the Bombay Government; and second, whether the Chief Commissioner has observed any difference in physical vigour between the civilians selected and trained under the recent regulation which lowered the maximum limit of age and members of the service who came under the old system.

† Not given in this Return.

(7)

3. The Chief Commissioner is happy to say that the experience of this Province is in no way similar to that of Bombay.

4. The present Chief Commissioner has not yet had time to make the acquaintance of many of the officers under him. Of those he has met he can say that none are insane, of unpleasant or uncouth manner, or physically unfit.

* * * * *

6. Four civilians have died in Burma from diseases connected with the climate, and not attributable to constitutional weakness.

* * * * *

8. The Province has received only two officers selected and trained under the new system; no difference has yet been observed in respect of physical vigour between these two officers and their seniors.

EXTRACT LETTER from W. C. MACPHERSON, Esq., Assistant Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Assam, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, Home Department, dated Shillong, 14th April 1883, No. 1,694.

IN reply to your letter, No. 13,446, dated the 19th March, I am desired to say that there are now employed in the Assam Province 23 civil servants, whose appointment dates from 1862 or subsequent years. Hardly one of these has had a serious illness, and not one is physically inefficient or unable to undergo any fatigue, such as may be expected in the ordinary events of life; and some are men of peculiarly fine physique.

* * * * *

2. There are two civil servants in Assam who have come out since the maximum limit of age was lowered. Both these officers appear to be fairly strong and healthy.

LETTER from Major H. WYLIE, C.S.I., Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Coorg, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, Home Department, dated Bangalore, 4th April 1883, No. 17-2.

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of your confidential letter, No. 13,447 of the 19th ultimo, calling for a confidential report on the points noticed in paragraphs 2 and 4 of the Secretary of State's Despatch, No. 12 (Public) of the 31st January 1883, and am desired to say that Sir James Gordon has not had any experience of civil servants in Coorg that would enable him to pronounce any opinion on the points referred to.

2. The two or three civilians of the standing indicated whom the Chief Commissioner has known in the Mysore Province have been members of the Bombay Civil Service of the period alluded to, and they have certainly been both physically and mentally efficient.

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(Lord Stafford.)

Ordered to be printed 6th March 1884.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE.

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