

Appointment of Dr. P.C. Roy, Assistant Professor of Chemistry in the Presidency College, to the Fourth Class of the Superiori Graded Service.

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APPOINTMENT OF DR. P.C. ROY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY IN THE
PRESIDENCY COLLEGE, TO THE FOURTH CLASS OF THE SUPERIOR GRADED SERVICE.

[Nos. 1-3]

[File 4A-/6 1]

No. 2443, dated Calcutta, the 28th April 1891.

From — Sir A. Croft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal,
To — The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department.

In reference to Mr. Maude's letter No. 344, dated the 1st May 1889, to my address, sanctioning the appointment of Dr. P.C. Roy as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry in the Presidency College, I have the honour to submit a copy of a letter No. 13, dated the 7th instant, from the Principal of the Presidency College, and of an enclosure from Mr. Pedler, Professor of Chemistry, in which claims of Dr. Roy to promotion to the fourth class of the Superior Graded Service, are strongly urged.

2. My opinion of Dr. Roy's qualifications are expressed in my letter No. 1350, dated the 5th March 1889, to your address. During the last two years Dr. Roy has confirmed in all respects the high estimate then formed of him. He is not only a chemist of ability and original research, but a skilful and painstaking teacher of that subject. In paragraph 5 of my letter No. 1767, dated the 20th march 1889, I requested that the appointment from England of a Professor of Physics or of a Professor of Chemistry might be left open until it was known which officer was most needed. The recent development of chemical studies in the University and in the Presidency College enables me to say that a second Professor of Chemistry, in addition to Mr. Pedler, is indispensable, and that Dr. Roy fulfils the duties of that post to my entire satisfaction. If that were the only question involved, I should now recommend his appointment to the fourth class of the service with the fullest confidence. His qualifications and the work that he does are on a par with those of Mr. J.C. Bose, who was also educated in England, and who, after similarly serving for 20 months in a temporary appointment of Rs. 250 a month, was appointed to the fourth class in September 1886, on the

regular scale of two-thirds of the sanctioned pay of that class. The two cases were very much alike; and it was understood by me that if Dr. Roy gave satisfaction in the discharge of his duties, he would establish a claim for similar promotion in due course of the graded service. Dr. Roy certainly formed a like expectation; and I have no doubt that the hope of promotion, if he was found to be deserving of it, has contributed not a little to the excellence of his work.

3. At that time, however, it was not known that the Government of India had come to the conclusion that no more appointments should be made to the superior graded service. The new policy was first made known to me by the appointment of Messrs. James and Hallward in December 1889. I am not aware how far the adoption of this policy must be regarded as final, whether it applies to natives of this country as well as to officers appointed by the Secretary of State, and whether it applies to those who entered the Department before the policy had been declared, and who were therefore to some extent justified in forming different expectations. I may remark that Babu Dina Nath Sen, who has been officiating in the fourth class for more than three years as Inspector of Schools, Eastern Circle, is also affected by any decision that may come to on the points above referred to.

4. Another point to be considered is the number and proportion of native officers already in the graded service, which is ordinarily limited to one-sixth of the full strength of the Department. The full strength of the graded service may now be taken at 32 appointments, excluding my own appointment, those of Messrs. Hallward and James, and the supernumerary appointment in class II held by Mr. Nash. Hence the proportionate number of native officers would be five or six. There are now seven substantive and one officiating officers, natives of India in the graded service; and unless the rule fixing the proportion at one-sixth was altered, no more permanent appointments could be made until vacancies arose in ordinary course.

No. 13, dated Calcutta, the 7th April 1891.

From — C.H. Tawney, Esq., M.A., Principal, Presidency College,

To — The Director of Public Instruction.

I have the honour to forward herewith copy of a letter from Mr. A. Pedler, which he has written at my request, having reference to the services of Mr. P.C. Roy as a teacher of chemistry in this college.

2. I have been for a long time thinking of recommending Mr. P.C. Roy for a place in the superior graded service, as I am of opinion that it is my duty, as Principal of the College in which he serves, to do my utmost to obtain for him some signal recognition of his merits; and the results of his recent Arts Examinations have reminded me of my duty in this respect with considerable force. But, as I have myself no special knowledge of the subject which Mr. P.C. Roy teaches, I thought it desirable to apply to Mr.

Pedler, as an expert in chemistry, for the favour of an opinion of Mr. P.C. Roy's qualifications (1st) as a practical and theoretical chemist, (2nd) as a teacher of chemistry.

3. As I expected, Mr. Pedler passes a high eulogium on Mr. P.C. Roy in both these capacities. I can only add that I have been much struck with Mr. P.C. Roy's diligence and cheerfulness in undertaking work not directly connected with his subject, such as superintending examinations, &c., &c.

4. Taking into consideration the results of my own observation and the testimony which Mr. Pedler bears to Mr. P.C. Roy's merits, I have no hesitation to saying that I think Mr. P.C. Roy is admirably fitted for an appointment in the upper graded service, and in soliciting you to move the Government of Bengal in his behalf.

Dated Presidency College, Calcutta,

From — Alexander Pedler, Esq., Professor of Chemistry, Presidency College,

To — The Principal, Presidency College.

In answer to your request that I should state my opinion of Dr. P.C. Roy's acquirements and of the work which he has done at the Presidency College, I beg to say that in my opinion he has fully proved his fitness to the Education Department as Assistant Professor of Chemistry in this College.

2. Dr. Roy joined the College nearly two years ago, and since that time worked directly with me in the teaching of the various classes. I have therefore had abundant opportunity of judging of the character of his work. During part of this time I was absent on leave, and the main part of the chemical work of the College then fell on his shoulders.

3. He has an excellent knowledge of chemistry both theoretical and practical, and has taught the classes put under him very well both in theoretical and practical chemistry.

4. I was able to test his teaching lately, for I examined the F.A. University candidates in chemistry taught by him, and also the same class of candidates from all the Calcutta Colleges. I found his students sent in decidedly good papers; they were on the average considerably better than those of the other Calcutta Colleges. Thus it may safely be accepted that he is a successful teacher of chemistry.

[No. 4]

[File 4-A/6 2]

No. 21T.G, dated Darjeeling, the 20th May 1891.

From — C.E. Buckland, Esq., Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal, General Dept.,

To — The Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

With reference to your letter No. 2443, dated the 28th April 1891, and enclosures, I am directed to say that the Lieutenant-Governor is unable to accept the proposal to place Dr. Prafulla Chandra Roy, Assistant Professor of Chemistry in the Presidency College, in the fourth class of the superior service of the Bengal Educational Department on the scale of pay allowed for natives. His Honour does not intend to make any new appointments to the superior graded service, and desires that it should gradually come to an end. These orders will not, however, preclude the possibility of giving Dr. Prafulla Chandra ROy a fair prospect of remuneration for the good work he has done. Sir Charles Elliott leaves it to you to propose a new scheme, not involving progressive salaries, based partly on the Public Service Commission's proposals and partly on those of the Finance Committee (Volume I, pages 289-99 of their Report) arranging the future staff of the reduced department on a suitable scale of salary.

[Nos. 5-7]

[File 4-A/6 3]

No. 4841, dated Calcutta, the 6th August 1891.

From — Sir A. Croft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal,

To — The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department.

In reply to your No. 21T.G., dated the 29th May last, informing me, with refernece to the application of Dr. P.C. Roy for promotion to the superior graded service, that the Lieutenant-Governor does not intend to make any more appointments to that service, and requesting me to propose a new scheme, based partly on the proposals of the Public Service Commission, and partly on those of the Finance Committee, I have the honour to refer you to my letter No. 4509, dated the 1st instant, in which I have proposed a new scheme of salaries for officers with similar qualifications to those of Dr. P.C. Roy, based on the proposals of the Public Service Commission. My views on the educational section of the Finance Committee's proposals were expressed in the note submitted to Government with my letter No. 728, dated the 28th January 1887, to which I would solicit a reference.

2. I think it desirable at this time to invite the attention of Government to the very different terms upon which native officers in the superior service, possessing precisely the same qualifications, have been appointed. The following officers have all graduated with high distinction at European Universities and the first five of them are fully qualified for the duties of a Professor in a first grade college: —

- 1) Doctor P.K. Roy, Professor, Presidency College, first appointed on Rs. 400 a month in December 1876; promoted to the fourth class in August 1878, before the promulgation of

the two-thirds rule, the third class in May 1889, where he now draws Rs. 900 a month, and will in due course rise to Rs. 1,000.

- 2) Mr. H.M. Percival, Professor, Presidency College, appointed in January 1880 on Rs. 250 a month, and promoted to the fourth class in February 1881, on the reduced pay of Rs. 333—33—500. He now draws Rs. 500 a month.
- 3) Mr. P.B. Mookerjea, Professor, Hooghly College, appointed by the Secretary of State to the fourth class in May 1883, on the reduced scale of apy. He now draws Rs. 500 a month.
- 4) Mr. J.C. Bose, Professor, Presidency College, appointed substantively *pro tempore* to the fourth class in January 1885, and confirmed in September 1886 on reduced scale of pay. He now draws Rs. 500 a month.
- 5) Dr. P.C. Roy, appointed on Rs. 250 a month in June 1889.
- 6) Mr. J.N. Das Gupta, appointed on Rs. 250 a month in November 1800.

I omit from this comparison the cases of Mahamahopadaya Mohesh Chandra Nyayaratna, C.I.E., Principal, Sanskrit College, appointed to class IV on the full sanctioned pay, and now drawing Rs. 1,000 a month in class III, and the two inspectors of Schools, Babu Brahma Mohan Mullick and Rai Radhika Prasanna Mukerjea, Bahadur, whose salaries have been fixed at special rates by the Secretary of State, and who now draw Rs. 590 and Rs. 560 a month respectively. Those officers may all be expected to retire in the next few years, and whatever anomaly their cases present will then disappear.

3. In your letter under reply, it is intimated that a fair prospect of remuneration for the good work he has done may be given to Dr. P.C. Roy. His case and that of Mr. J.C. Bose are almost precisely similar, and it seems desirable that the former should be able to look forward to the same rate of pay as the latter, who attained a salary of Rs. 500 after about five years' service. In my letter of 1st instant, I have recommended additions to be made to classes III, II and I of Subordinate Service, and special appointments to be created with salaries higher than that of class I. If it is thought desirable, as it seems to me to be fair, to give Dr. P.C. Roy a similar prospect of promotion to Rs. 500 in five years, he might now be appointed to class I on Rs. 400—20—500. If that is not thought necessary, he might be appointed to class II on Rs. 300—20—400. Mr. J.N. Das Gupta has hardly yet established his claims to promotion to any special class, and I should like to have further experience of his work before making any definite recommendation in his favour.

4. I beg to submit herewith a petition from Dr. P.C. Roy in reference to his pay, which has been forwarded to me by the Principal of Presidency College.

Dated Presidency College, Calcutta, the 15th July 1891.

To — His Honour , the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, (Forwarded through the Principal, Presidency College)

The humble petition of Prafulla Chandra Roy.

Most Respectfully Sheweth —

That your petitioner entered the Education Department in June 1889, and was appointed as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry, and placed in the non-classified list on a salary of Rs. 250.

That your petitioner had all along expected he would be placed in the higher graded service; and as soon as he got the official intimation of his appointment in the non-classified list, he made a representation to the Government of Bengal, pointing out the peculiar hardships of his case, and praying to be admitted to the superior graded service.

Sir Stuart Bayley was kind enough to intimate your petitioner that he would re-open the question of your petitioner's promotion on his giving proof of his abilities as a successful teacher. He appends a copy of the reply from His Honour's Private Secretary.

That your petitioner has been serving upwards of two years in his present capacity. He ventures to hope that the authorities above are satisfied with his work.

Your petitioner therefore begs to be promoted to the superior graded service.

And your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

PRAFULLA CHANDRA ROY.

Dated Darjeeling, the 29th May 1889.

Demi-Official from — P.C. Lyon, Esq.,

To — Dr. P.C. Roy.

In answer to your letter of 27th May, I am desired to say that the Lieutenant-Governor is aware of the creditable degree that you have taken, and of the aptitude which you are said to possess for original work. For a successful teacher, however, other qualifications are also required, and His Honour must decline to consider the question of your promotion until experience has shown whether you possess those qualifications in such degree as to justify it.

[No.8]

[File 4-A/6 4]

No. 119.T.G., dated Darjeeling, the 5th September 1891.

From — W. Maude, Esq., Under-Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal, General Dept.,

To — The Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

With reference to your letter No. 4841, dated the 6th August 1891, bringing to your notice the claims of promotion of the native educational officer Dr. P.C. Roy, I am directed to say that his case will be taken into consideration when the conditions of the new Provincial scheme are settled.

2. I am to add that you appear to have overlooked the request to draw up the new scheme abolishing incremental salaries either in the superior or provincial branch of the Educational Service, and that, as such a scheme has to be submitted to the Government of India, it will now be prepared in *viva voce* communication with you.