

2nd August

30

My dear Stapleton,

I must apologise for not having replied earlier to your confidential D. O. No.1297 of the 7th July, in which you asked for a special report on Mr. H. K. Banerji. It seems to me that it can hardly be possible in the case of a College Professor, especially a man between 40 and 50 years of age, to insist on his taking part in sports and athletics. Mr. Banerji does, as a matter of fact, play tennis with the students and is one of the very few members of the staff who do so. But I cannot say more than this, so far as athletics are concerned. As to the social life of the College, again I must speak in rather guarded terms. The expression is, I am afraid, one which, in so large a College as this and under the conditions of student-life in Calcutta, does not really mean very much. I believe Mr. Banerji to be one of the most influential man in the College among the students. He has repeatedly given proof of this during times of stress ; and if there were more social life, I do not doubt that he would take a prominent part in it. I may mention that he took on his shoulders the greater part of the work of preparation for the last Founders' Day and carried it out extremely well.

I find it difficult to be more definite on details. My real feeling about him, as I have repeatedly explained, is that I owe him a real debt for the help he has given me and think him a most valuable member of the staff.

As to Mr. J. C. Ghosh, he is now in England and it is really impossible for me to collect any opinions of value regarding his qualifications. Anyone whom I might consult would doubtless know the reason for my enquiry. His name was considered by the committee and, so far as I recollect, only Sir Jadu Nath Sarkar had any first hand knowledge of him and he did not then speak of him with any particular warmth.

As

As the advertisement has, on the whole, proved unsuccessful in attracting names, I venture to ask whether the terms of the advertisement need be rigidly adhered to. In my opinion the best solution, all things considered, would be to give the posts, if they are to be given at all, to Prof. P. C. Ghosh and Prof. H. K. Banerji. Much as I like Mr. Banerji and much as I value his assistance, I cannot but feel that his position, if he were placed over the head of so senior and able a man as Mr. P. C. Ghosh, would be extraordinarily difficult. Further, it appears from an incident about which you told me a few days ago that Mr. Ghosh has a very genuine grievance and ought, but for some strange official blunder, to have been a member of the I. E. S. for some years. I would, therefore, urge the reconsideration of the whole position.

Yours sincerely,

H. E. Stapleton
4/8

H. E. Stapleton, Esq., M.A., B.B.Sc (Oxon).

D. P. I. Bengal.



Office of the Director of Public
Instruction, Bengal.

The 29th July, 1930

Confidential.

D. O. No. 1476

My dear Barrow,

Please refer to the Director's confidential D. O. letter No. 1297 dated 7th July 1930, about the 2 English Professorships at Presidency College and let this office have your report on the points raised therein without further delay.

2. The information is very urgently required by Government.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "K. Wolfenden", is written over a horizontal line.

To

J. R. Barrow Esq., M.A.,

Principal, Presidency College.

A.M. 29.7.

Pme 29.7

D. O. No. 1297



Office of the Director of Public Instruction,
Bengal.

Confidential

Calcutta

The July 7th 1930

My dear Barrow,

I have seen your note of 6-7-30 about the 2 English Professorships at Presidency College, but H.M. has now asked for a special report on H.K. Banerji, dealing particularly with the part he has taken in extra academic work, such as sports, athletics and social life of the College. Will you please let me have your opinion as soon as possible on this point: ^{as well} as any further information you can collect (apart from ^{Sir} J.N. Sarkar's opinion) on whether Mr. J.C. Ghosh can be considered a really satisfactory candidate for the other vacancy.

Yours sincerely,

J. R. Barrow Esq., M.A.,

Principal, Presidency College,

C A L C U T T A.

27th June

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Dear Sir Jadunath,

You remember that the committee which sat to consider applications for the special Professorships in English at this College recommended Mr. Sidhanta and Mr. Knight. Both these gentlemen have now refused the offers made. You will recollect also that the committee proposed Mr. H. K. Banerji as a reserve nominee.

I have been asked to consult you as to the course you now recommend. Do you think we should recommend Mr. H. K. Banerji and Mr. J. C. Ghosh of the Calcutta University who is now in England? If we do not, the condition of the English Department will be precisely what it was at the end of last session after Mr. Chanda's transfer, that is to say, it will be, in my opinion, a very fair staff, although certainly one which would bear strengthening. May I take it that in your opinion Mr. J. C. Ghosh's appointment would strengthen it or not? I may add that though I personally have a high opinion of Mr. H. K. Banerji on various grounds, I foresee that there will be difficulty in persuading Government to accept the appointment on higher pay of a man who is already in Government service to do the same work which he is already doing.

The staff as it stands consists of the following not counting myself :

Mr. P. C. Ghosh.
 Dr. S. K. Banerji
 Mr. H. K. Banerji
 Mr. Somnath Maitra
 Mr. Subodh Chandra Sen Gupta.
 Mr. M.G. Bhattacharjee (and a further appointment in Mr. Chanda's place).

Yours sincerely,

Sir Jadu Nath Sarcar, Kt., C. I. E.

~~2 Badur Bagan Row, Amherst Street P. O.~~

9 Tonga Road,

"Sankarabas"

Darjeeling.

Principal.

I have written
to Mr H.A. Portman
dept for Dr. Gherles'
address.

Given
27/6.

No. 193.

27th June

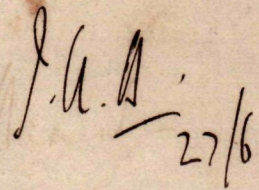
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Dear Sir,

In connection with your application for a Professorship of English at the Presidency College, I have been asked to request you to see me at as early a date as is convenient if you still wish to stand.

The College is due to open on the 2nd July. Could you see me some day before then at about 12 noon and let me know beforehand on what day I may expect you?

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of J. C. Ghosh, dated 27/6.

Dr. J. C. Ghosh, D. Phil.

Lecturer, Post Graduate Department,
Calcutta University.



So. No. 193.

Presidency College,

CALCUTTA.

The 27th June 1930

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Yours sincerely,

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Dr. J. C. Ghosh, D. Phil.

Lecturer, Post Graduate Department,

Calcutta University.

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

OFFICE OF the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

Education DEPARTMENT.

.....GROUP
Appointment BRANCH.

No...3294A.....
4A-63a-30

FROM

The Director of Public Instruction, Bengal,

To

J. R. Barrow, Esq., M. A.,
Principal, Presidency College.

Calcutta, Dated...the 11th April 1930.

Subject:—

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 848-Con., dated the 1st April 1930, in which you suggest that at least one of the two new Professors of English for Presidency College should be appointed from July next. The matter is under consideration by Government.

*note & file.
Mm.
Re/cu*

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Wolfeenden

Assistant Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

B. 11. 4. 30

Conf. D.L.

D.O. no. 127 of S. 4. 30

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H. E. Stapleton, Esq., M.A., B.Sc.
(over)

Offs. D.P. I. Bengal.

My dear Stapleton,
Sir,

x 7log x

In contin. of Ltr no. 848^x(Cm)
of the 1st April 1930 about the
needs of the Eng. Dept. of this
College, I have forwarded herewith
an application from Mr. S. N.
Maitra, Offs. Prof of English, with
the remark that I believe his
work here has been quite good.

Yours truly J. S.

Mr. S. N.
Maitra

JP

Over
5/4.

Draft

I wrote to Mr. Hapthorne a few days ago

(1) about the needs of the English Dept.

This letter of Mr. S. Martin's may be sent to him in

(2) continuation, with the remark that I believe his work here has been quite good. Mm: s/c

(1) Put up. (7 Lag x)

(2) A draft for approval

Overen the

194

Mm: s/c

Confidential

No. 848 (Con.)

From

J. R. Barrow, Esq., M. A., I. E. S.

Offg. Principal, Presidency College, Calcutta.

To

H. E. Stapleton, Esq., M. A., B. Sc (Oxon).

Offg. Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

Dated Calcutta, the 1st April 1930.

Sir,

With reference to your order contained in your office memo No. 2803 A dated the 26th March 1930 transferring Mr. A. K. Chanda to Krishnagar, I have the honour to invite your attention to the needs of the English Department of this College.

Mr. Chanda's place will presumably have to be filled by the appointment of a Bengal Educational Service officer against the vacancy. His transfer inevitably weakens the department.

I consider therefore that it is especially necessary that at least one of the temporary Professors should join his post at the beginning of July. But there is a possibility that one of the temporary Professorships may be allotted to an officer who is already on the staff. If this should happen, the post which he is at present occupying will be filled by a Bengal Educational Service officer ; and the staff will not have been strengthened so much as might have been expected.

I submit therefore that, if one of the temporary Professorships is to be filled in the manner referred to, every effort should be made to bring out from England by the beginning of the session the person who it is hoped will fill the other temporary post. I am told there is an order under which Englishmen on their first appointment to this country are not allowed to join between May and October. I do not know whether this order applies to temporary appointments, but I hope that

that regard will be had to the considerations I have put forward.

I may add that, in the filling up of permanent vacancies, the claims of Messrs Somnath Maitra and S. C. Sen Gupta should not be lost sight of.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sum 1/4

Principal, Presidency College.

Confidential

To ~~Mr.~~ H. E. Stapleton Esq,
D.P.

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16. 3. 30. transferring Mr. A. K. Chanda
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Strictly
confidential.

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I have &c.,
M. — 1/6