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Proposal for the establishment of an Engineering Training School at the Presidency College

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From H. LEONARD, Esq., C. E.,

Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Public Works Department.

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

Fort William, the 6th March 1868

SIR,

I am directed to request a reference to the letter from the Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal to your address No. 92T. Of the 17th July 1863, and to the correspondences of which copies were forwarded therewith.

2. In that letter the Government of India were informed of the Lieutenant-Governor's concurrence in the suggestion that the Civil Engineering College should be brought into a closer relation with the Presidency College, regarding which the opinion of the Government of Bengal had been required by the Government of India (vide their Secretary's letter No. 3009 of the 6th August 1862), and, in the concluding paragraph of the letter, it was stated that the Lieutenant-Governor would afterwards submit a plan for the Engineering Training School, which had been suggested by Colonial Strachey, R. E., in the note which accompanied your Office letter No. 3009 above reference to.

3. But although no scheme for such a School was at that time submitted, the papers forwarded will have been sufficient to inform the Government of India of the views entertained by the Officers of the Educational and Public works Departments, who were consulted in regard to the point. It will have been seen that, though the idea of a Training School met with very general approval, considerable doubts were entertained, whether it would be possible to find men of the ordinary class of workmen sufficiently intelligent to receive the education required. The preparation of a scheme has since been delayed by these and similar doubts.

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Colonel Strachey's scheme for amalgamating the late civil Engineering with the Presidency College, and for providing instruction in the latter for training of civil engineers intended to be employed with higher grades of the P. W. D., included a lower training school for practical engineering, as a necessary and indispensable adjunct to the arrangement. The Govt of India observed:

"Should the contemplated change be made, the character of the C E College would so far be modified as to restrict it in a great degree to the task of giving a complete scientific education to young men designed for the higher branches of civil engineering alone. The students would probably be almost reclusive \_\_\_\_\_ that cater the Presidency College, and their general education would be, if not identical with, at all events closer analogous to that given to the University of undergraduates. It would hence follow that the \_\_\_\_\_ grades of the present institution would no longer find place in their part of the new arrangement. And to meet their want, and to improve in the \_\_\_\_\_ scheme of the C.E. College \_\_\_\_\_ to establish a Lower Training School in connection with College teaching, especially \_\_\_\_\_ for the instruction of practical \_\_\_\_\_. The great need of such a scheme has been accepted from the time of Lord Dalhousie, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Calcutta Civil Engineering College, to the present moment [August 1862]. But the difficulties have hitherto become insurmountable, and this deficiency in the complete sanction of the original scheme still remains a source of great regret. His \_\_\_\_\_ in Council will be much rejoiced if any feasible plan can be devised \_\_\_\_\_ a real advance in this direction."

It was proposed that the benefit of the practical training in the Training School should be made available as far as possible for the pupils of Civil Engineering with completion of their theoretical course, and the Lieutenant-Governor has decided to favor the Govt. of India with his views as as to what measures could most advantageously be used for giving effect to these conclusions.

Since that time the Civil Engineering College has been absorbed with the Presidency College, but nothing has been done towards carrying out the idea as \_\_\_\_\_ the Lower Training institution. The late Lieutenant-Governor in promised that 1863 provided that his opinion on the subject would be submitted \_\_\_\_\_ India, and a reference was made to Capt Hyde, unit Master of Calcutta, for "a full \_\_\_\_\_ of his opinion as with the best plan for establishing a practical training school for engineers".