

And it is hereby ordered, that all such young men as may be proposed to be appointed to any junior situation in any department of the Civil Service shall, before they are admitted to probation, be examined by, or under the directions of, the said Commissioners; and shall receive from them a certificate of qualification for such situation.

And it shall be the duty of the Commissioners, in respect of every such candidate, before granting any such certificate as aforesaid—

- 1st. To ascertain that the candidate is within the limits of age prescribed in the department to which he desires to be admitted.
- 2nd. To ascertain that the candidate is free from any physical defect or disease which would be likely to interfere with the proper discharge of his duties.
- 3rd. To ascertain that the character of the candidate is such as to qualify him for public employment, and
- 4th. To ascertain that the candidate possesses the requisite knowledge and ability for the proper discharge of his official duties.

The rules applicable to each department under each of the above heads, should be settled, with the assistance of the Commissioners, according to the discretion of the Chief Authorities of the department; but, except that candidates for admission to any of the junior situations in any branch of the Civil Service will be required to obtain certificates of qualification as aforesaid, such Examining Board shall not make any alteration in respect to the nomination or appointment of candidates by those who are or may be charged with the duty of nomination and appointment.

After the candidate has passed his examination and received his certificate of qualification from the Commissioners, he shall enter on a period of probation, during which his conduct and capacity in the transaction of business shall be subjected to such tests as may be determined by the Chief of the Department for which he is intended; and he shall not be finally appointed to the Public Service, unless upon satisfactory proofs of his fitness being furnished to the Chief of the Department, after six months' probation.

And it is lastly hereby ordered, that in case the Chief of any department considers it desirable to appoint to any situation for which there are no prescribed limits of age, a person of mature age having acquired special qualifications for the appointment in other pursuits, such person shall not in virtue of this order be required to obtain any certificate from the said Commissioners in order to obtaining such appointment; but the Chief of the department shall cause the appointment of any person not previously examined to be formally recorded as having been made on account of special qualifications.

Wm. L. Bathurst.

Downing Street, May 18, 1855.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint Henry James Meller, Esq., to be Resident Magistrate for the county of D'Urban, in the district of Natal, in South Africa.

Whitehall, May 22, 1855.

The Queen has been pleased to present the Reverend James Mitchell to the church and parish of Peterhead, in the presbytery of Deer, and county of Aberdeen, vacant by the transportation of the Reverend Alexander Irvine to the parish of Cramond.

The Queen has also been pleased to present the Reverend John McCrae Sandilands to the church and parish of Orr, alias Urr, in the stewartry of Kirkcudbright, and presbytery of Dumfries, vacant by the resignation of the Reverend George Stewart Burns.

*Board of Trade, Whitehall,
May 18, 1855.*

THE Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Plantations have received, through the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Athens, enclosing copy of a proposed law for establishing steam communication between different parts of Greece, of which the following is a translation:—

ART. I. A Joint Stock Company (anonyme) may be established, under royal authority, and subject to the conditions specified in the following Articles, in order to establish lines of steam communication between the islands and coast of Greece.

ART. II. The Company shall be bound,—

1. To employ and to maintain, for the purpose of this trade, three or four steam-ships, none of which shall be of less than 70-horse power; and also to keep in reserve one steam-ship at least, to provide against contingencies.
2. To sail their ships under the Greek flag. The captains and at least three-fourths of the crews must be Greek subjects, with the exception of the engineers, who may be subjects of any other power.
3. To establish a workshop for the repair of the machinery and boilers of the steam-vessels.
4. To establish a slip, or to obtain and maintain a machine for the purpose of drawing up vessels in need of repair.
5. To carry, free of charge, to all places at which the vessels may touch, the Government despatches and the packets of stamped papers, and also the public moneys.

ART. III. In remuneration of these services the (Greek) Government will grant to the Company the following advantages:—

1. An exclusive privilege for twelve years, reckoning from the day when the vessels begin to run.
2. Acquisition by the State of a number of shares, equal to a fifth of the total capital of the Company, but not in any case exceeding a maximum sum of 400,000 drachmas.
3. A guarantee to the shareholders of an amount of interest not exceeding 5 per cent., payable every six months. That is, in the event of the Company not being able, after deduction of working expenses and cost of direction, as well as of the amount annually devoted to the redemption of the original capital, to pay interest out of the net revenue, at the rate of 5 per cent., the Government will supply the deficiency.