

Hand Eday (192 6) Department.

Adm. SERIES.

G.O. No.

Letter
1442

DATED

29.7.26

[Despatch Abstract.]

Bartels, M. Mrs. - Letter from the High Commissioner for India
Replied to.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
0	1122-23	Pub	3.9.14	0	1187	Law(Edu)	16.7.25
0	1079	Pub	15.7.15	0	328	"	3.3.26
0	917	Law(Edu)	27.6.23	0	878	"	17.5.26
0	66	Law(Edu)	16.1.24				
0	1503	Law(Edu)	24.9.24				
0	501	Prin and P	9.12.24				

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

G. B. Ram
for SECRETARY
to the HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

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COPY.

35, Brunswick Square,

12th June 1926.

H.C. 52 117
24. 3. 7

TO The High Commissioner,
India Office.

Sir,

10th-8 infra

I have the honour to enclose a petition to the Madras Government and I request you would be good enough to forward it and ask them to be kind enough to answer my question. Whatever secret misrepresentation was made to the Director on that occasion is militating against me and giving people an erroneous opinion of me so lessening my chances of employment. My sister, who is 6 years older than me is employed in a semi-Government School at present and I cannot understand why such different treatment should be meted out to me. I have a University degree, qualifications and experience for a teacher. I have spent a good many years of my life in the same profession. Why should an unknown and unproven charge be allowed to stand against me. My father was a Scotchman, an Engineer and held a highly paid post for several years in Madras as Manager of the Cement Works. My sister was married and lived here for twenty-five years and my brother for about ten. I have a cousin who is the head of a large Secondary School in Derby. You give employment to every nationality - French, Italians, Jews, Russians, Indians, Negroes and why should things be made so difficult for me who have better rights than these. I know competition is keen but if it were only competition I should not mind, because I have

qualifications and experience - The work I had and spent 18 years in was taken from me unjustly - I think it would be only a modicum of justice to allow me to earn a few pounds in the profession I have been trained in to supplement my very small pension. On these grounds I ask you to be good enough to forward this petition.

I am, etc.

(SD.) M. BARTELS

COPY.

35, BRUNSWICK SQUARE, W.C.

LONDON,

5th May 1926.

TO: THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

THRO' THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Sir,

With reference to your No. 351, I have the honour to
152-26
state that circumstances which have since arisen compel me to
lay a second petition before you.

18 mifa
Enclosed, Sir, is a copy of my services to India in the
Madras Government. You will see from it that my promotion
and increase of salary has been steady and constant, and as a
true copy of my service Register it cannot show any bad mark
against me.

In spite of this suddenly in August 1924 when I was
doing my legitimate inspection work in the District, I
received a telegram from the Director's Office to go before
a Medical Board. I had not complained of illness nor had
I absented myself from duty on that account. The Board
was held in Madras and it necessitated a night's railway
journey to go there. I asked the reason why I was sent, but
only received a second urgent wire to go there. I obeyed
orders but feeling entitled to know the reason, I saw the
Director before meeting the Board and asked him. He gave
me an evasive reply and said he had nothing to do with it and
it was entirely Government. As I stated before the Board
were not competent to pronounce on mental cases as they were
only women employed in a Maternity Hospital. Moreover, they
did not examine me either as is generally done in a

bona-fide examination, but first questioned me on the holiday I had spent in England, particularly on the circumstances of a rag of which I was a victim. I spoke truly and on this slender ground they declared me unfit for service. Well and good. I knew the real cause. Just a few days, about four, before I received the telegram my peon made before me a very immodest gesture in public before a number of Indians. The circumstances were these. I had set out the previous night from a town to travel to a place some twenty miles distant. I reached about 1 o'clock in the day and had to alight at an old disused police station standing on the road. As I alighted I noticed across the road some Indians undressed except for a loin cloth seated on the front of their horses chewing betel nut and spitting. My peon in the roadway made this immodest action and they all raised a laugh at it. I immediately scolded him and told him he deserved to be kicked for the same. My clerk was not there at the time, but what they made out of this affair and what they wrote up to the Director I do not know, but in the course of two days the telegram was despatched. When I heard the decision of the Board I knew it was spite. However, I was a poor woman alone and friendless, had no money to fight my battle, and the reason was withheld from me so that I could not even offer an explanation of my conduct to anybody. I had a few hundred rupees in my Provident Fund and knew that the spite which brought about the Departmental hasty action would stop at nothing, I determined to come to England, hoping, at least, to meet with justice. But before I had come rumours from India condemning me had apparently reached here.

I was entitled to about 8 months leave preparatory to retirement, but that was refused to me and I was sent out after 18 years of honourable service as you will see from the enclosed extract without a pension or leave allowances. Feeling the necessity of getting work, I went to a scholastic agency, but in my presence the Secretary¹³⁰⁰ phoned up and told not to give me work. I had only then been two months in England. However, in the course of 8 or 9 months I did get work, but after the first term, the Headmistress said she had heard "things" about me and I was not to return. The rule here is to give a term's notice. I got a month's pay. I asked her what were the things she had heard, but she gave me a very nice certificate, though she did not expressly state what were the things she heard. After that I worked for a little while in France and there more than in London it was borne in on me that the reason of my being sent before the Board was a cruel and cowardly lie which the Indians had written up against me. I had previous to this written and asked the Government to give me a copy of the report which compelled the Director to send out the telegram and also a copy of the medical certificate. I was refused both, and the authors of that report taking advantage of the immunity of the protection which Governments affords them by withholding the contents of the false report from me about whom it is made, are going further and spreading false rumours about my character, capabilities and past life in India to the detriment of my well-being and success in life.

As my pension is only £6 a month, and the least I have to pay for only one room is £3 a month. I have only £3 for food and clothing which means only one meal a day and that cooked by myself. Having lived all my life in India,

18 months
unpaid

10 1187 (H)
16.7.25

I am not used to domestic work. I would willingly supplement my small pension by working but owing to the slanders which in the first instance resulted in my being sent before the Medical Board and which owing to being broadcast here are prejudicing me greatly among the people with whom I have to live, so I ask you in the name of justice, of the prestige and honour you claim to yourselves as Englishmen to obtain an answer for me from the Madras Government of the following questions.

- (1) Did the report sent up against me on which I was sent before the Board contain any allegation against my moral character.
- (2) Was I accused of being cruel either to teachers or pupils whom I had to deal with.
- (3) Was I accused by the Inspectress or any responsible person on testamentary authority ^{of} ~~authority~~ of having failed in my duty.

The allegations sent abroad about me here are based on the following grounds, therefore I shall look upon it as an inestimable service if you will help me to clear my name by getting a definite reply to the following. (foregoing)

I am a working woman, poor and friendless, therefore my reputation is all the more valuable to me. To lose that means to lose my means of subsistence and no one under any pretext whatever has a right to deprive me of it.

All I have is due to my own efforts and no one has any right to guide the lines of my life.

I trust my second appeal will not be in vain and that you will help to refute the cruel slanders put abroad about me.

I have etc.

(Sa.) MARIE BARTELS.

COPY.

HISTORY OF SERVICE WHILE IN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT.

Station.	Official Designation	Date of appointment	Salary
Coimbatore	Head Mistress Govt. Training School for Mistresses Coimbatore	24.12.1906	Rs.75
Rajahmundry	Head Mistress Govt. Training School for Mistresses Rajahmundry.	1.2.1912	Rs.100
Chittoor	Sub-Assistant Inspectress of Schools North Areat-Saleen Girls Range	26.12.1912 afternoon	Rs.125
Bellary	Sub Assistant Inspectress of Schools .--? Girls Range promoted to Rs. 150	11.11.1913	Rs.125
Rajahmundry	Sub Assistant Inspectress of Girls Schools, Godaverie Girls Range	6.11.1917	Rs.175
Madras	Acting Assistant Inspectress Madras, Girls Range	14.9.18	Rs.200
Palghat	Ag.Asst. Inspectress Coimbatore Girls Range	14.9.18 Permitted to draw a local allowance	Rs.225
Coimbatore	do.	Rs. 268	Rs.225
do.	do.	{ 200 - 20 - 400 - 25 -500 220 plus 20 personal allowance)	
do.	Madras Educational Service Ag. 1. 3.21		
do.	Confirmed as Assistant Inspectress of Schools	21. 4. 21 "	
do.	do.	1.3.22 Rs. 240 on leave from 1.6.22 to 17. 8. 23	
Vizagapatam	do.	18. 8. 23	Rs. 260
do.	do.	1.5.24	Rs. 280
Retired with effect 31. 8. 24			
(True Copy) (sd.)			
for DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.			

GENERAL

52117

P/A after issue
Reminder on
Return to Mr.
Copy for

9

(10)

June 21st, 1926.

Madam,

I am directed by the High Commissioner for India to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th June, with enclosure, and to inform you that it has been forwarded to the Government of Madras, upon receipt of whose reply a further communication will be addressed to you.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

for SECRETARY
to the HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

Mrs. M. Bartels,
35, Brunswick Square,
W.C.

C.No.2681 A.

From the High Commissioner for India H.C.No.52117,
dated 21st June 1926.

Subject:--Petition from Mrs.Bartels for certain in-
formation in regard to her retirement from
service.

The following is a brief history connected with
the retirement of Mrs. Bartels, Assistant Inspectress
of Schools:- //She was granted leave for one year and
four months from 1-6-1922 and she spent the major por-
tion of this leave in England and was permitted to
return to India in the beginning of July 1923. In May
1923 the Secretary to the High Commissioner for India
forwarded certain communications from Mrs. Bartels
which showed that her mind was unbalanced. Later on,
in November 1923 after Mrs. Bartels joined duty, the
Inspectress of Schools under whom she was working
brought to notice that she was addicted to habitual and
unrestrained indulgence in drinks, and that she was
behaving disgracefully both in public places and in her
house and that she was also getting into debt in con-
sequence of ^{her heavy bills} liquor ~~drinks~~. Thereupon the D.P.I. was
requested to frame formal charges against her and
obtain her explanations thereon. Certain charges were
framed accordingly framed and ^{after considering her explanations} ~~the D.P.I. came to the conclusion that the charges were~~ ^{found to have been} proved. ~~The D.P.I. thereupon~~
suggested that she might be asked to appear before a
Medical Board. The Government approved of the sugges-
tion and also asked the D.P.I. to furnish the Medical
Board with a full summary of the correspondence regard-
ing her mental condition beginning with the High Com-
missioner's letter of May 1923 referred to above. The
Medical Board finally declared her unfit for further
service and she was ^{granted a} ~~retired on~~ pension. ^{off Rs 76} Thereupon
she appealed to His Excellency the Governor requesting

please see note on p. 7 of (E)
papers in fr. 917 d. 2
27.6.23

pages 1 to 6 of do

page 2 of fr. 66 d. 2 (C)
16.1.24

fr. 66 d. 2 (C)
16.1.24
page 1 to 3 of fr. 1503 d. 2 (B)
24.9.24

page 19 do

fr. 501 Fr. (A)
9.12.24

that she might be allowed to appear before another Medical Board or given one year's leave and allowed to return to work after it. These requests were refused.

In March 1925 the High Commissioner forwarded a copy of correspondence from Mrs. Bartels in which she requested that she might be furnished with a copy of the medical certificate invaliding her from service as well as of the report of the Board which led to her being sent before the Medical Board. In G.O.No.1187 Law (Edn.) dated 10-7-25 she was informed that her requests could not be complied with. In February last the Govt. of India forwarded to this Government for disposal a petition from her applying for ~~enhanced pension~~ ^{a reconsideration of her case}. This was also refused in G.O.No.328 Law Edn. dated 3-3-26. Again in March she submitted to the ~~officer~~ Viceroy through the Local Government a petition for enhanced pension which was withheld in G.O.No.878 Law (Edn.) dated 17-5-26. The High Commissioner now forwards further correspondence from her and desires to be informed what reply should be given to her on the points raised in her letter.

Mrs. Bartels requests information on the following points:

- (i) Whether the report sent up against her on which she was sent before the Board contained any allegation against ~~her~~ her moral character;
- (ii) Whether she was accused of being cruel either to teachers or pupils whom she had to deal with;
- (iii) Whether ~~was~~ she accused by the Inspectress or any responsible person on testamentary authority of having failed in her duty.

As regards point (i) it is submitted that she was sent before the Medical Board ~~as a result of the consideration~~ ^{as a result of the consideration} of the Director's letter ~~specifying~~ ^{containing} the charges framed against her and his remarks on the explanations offered by her. It has already been decided that a copy of this letter cannot be furnished to her. As regards points (ii)

(B)
p. 27 of fo. no. 150328
24.9.24
p. 32 do

(H)
pages 1 to 5 of fo. 1187 d. E
10.7.25

(H)

(D)

(P)

p. 7 of E.F.

(B)
p. 11 of fo. 1503
24.9.24

(H)
pages 6 & 7 of fo. 1187 d. E
10.7.25

(B)
p. 1 to 4 of fo. 150328
24.9.24

and (iii) it is submitted that there have been no ^{definite} charges ~~made~~ except those contained in the Director's letter referred to above. For orders whether a copy of this letter may be forwarded to the High Commissioner for information and the High Commissioner asked to inform Mrs. Bartels ^{that} that a copy of the charges framed against her has already been furnished ^{to her} and that ~~copies~~ ^{copy} of the other documents applied for cannot be granted.

I do not think it is necessary to forward to the High. Com. ² copy of the D.P.I's letter. It is enough to inform Mrs. Bartels that there are no allegations against her beyond those in the charges framed & communicated to her by the D.P.I. Draft.

A draft letter is submitted for approval.

M 2
27.7.26
27.7.26
27.7.26

When despatched

I am directed to say that Mrs. Barkels may be informed that there are no allegations

embodied 14
against her beyond those in the
charges framed and communicated
to her by the Director of Public
Instruction

I have ch.

27/7
27.7.16

V.T.K.
8/7

referred
over

When given for copying
When copied
When examined
When signed

192

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
192

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DETTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED OF, BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR DISPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.