

Educational (189) Department.
1900

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 3

DATED 8—1—1900

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Informing Mr. C. J. Smith late Secy
of the Lawrence Academy Press that
his request for pension or gratuity
for his long services, is one within
the competence of the Trustees of the
Press to decide & that Govt sees no
reason to interfere.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

[Pub. 20]
1,000-11-8-98.

Edb
Public (1899) Department.

CS
Endorsement No 8176 d/ 2/12/88.

*Transferred to the
Educational Dept.*

W. H. Murphy
Under Secretary

1901
CURRENT No. 3340

From E. J. Firth, Esq.
Secretary,
Lawrence Asylum Press

for 50
4/12/88
Order
Note

*This is an appeal to Govt. against
certain decisions of the Agents of
The Lawrence Asylum Press, made
by its Secretary in connection with
his resignation of that post. It
is addressed to the Chief Secy but
appears to be a matter for Edl
to deal with.*

Dated 30-11-99
Received - 20 -
Registered 1-12-99
Enclosures four
Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

*Requesting to be allowed either a
pension or a substantial gratuity
for his long & faithful services
as Secretary to the Lawrence
Asylum Press.*

for 50
4/12/88
order No 3 d/ 8.1.1900

*Mr. Firth will be informed that the
matter forming the subject of his petition is one
within the competence of the Trustees of the Press
to decide and that Govt. sees no reason to interfere.*

W. H. Murphy
23-12-99
8.6
W. H. Murphy
23-12-99
8.6
W. H. Murphy
23-12-99
8.6

BACK PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
3508	11-6-88	my	
1108	21-4-97	cy	
820	220		

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.



Laurence Aspin Press
166, Mount Road, Madras.
14 Nov. 1899

To E. F. H. Hope
Secretary, Laurence Aspin Press
Madras

Dear Sir

At a meeting of the Agents held at this Press on the 30th October 1899, your letter of the 21st October was considered, and the following resolution was passed: -

Read - letter from E. F. H. Hope, Secretary to the Press dated 21st October 1899, tendering his resignation from the operation of his leave (30th Nov. 1899); asking the Agents to consider whether his services to the Press may have entitled him to a pension after a service of 25 years, and stating that his services have not been wholly unsuccessful as the Epitome (attached) will show -

Resolved - (a) - That Mr. Hope's resignation be accepted from 30th Nov. 1899 -

(b) with reference to his request for a pension, while recognizing the good

Services done in the past by Mr. Firth in
the post of Secretary, that; considering
the Press must necessarily be worked
with a view to its possible profits for
the Lawrence Agency; and considering
the rules laid down in 1882 for pensions
and remarks contained in G.O. No. 350
Educational, dated 11th June 1898; Mr. Firth
having never been a full time
Secretary, the Agents regret they are
unable to grant him a pension; or to
recommend his case to the Trustees for
special consideration as regards granting
him a pension.

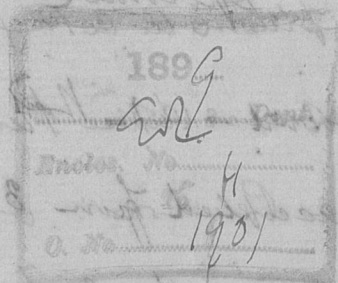
Yours faithfully

(Signed) R. Hill

On behalf of the Agents

A.

asked that Gov
not the Trustees
should decide
this question



and not
to put into 3340988

CHIEF SECRETARY
30. NOV. 1899
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Sau Thomé

21st October 1899

From Edward John Firth

Secretary to the Agents to the Trustees

of the Lawrence Agency Press

To the Agents to the Trustees

Lawrence Agency Press.

Gentlemen

I have the honor to tender my resignation
of the Secretaryship of the Lawrence Agency Press
and to request that it may be forwarded
to Government for acceptance. And, if it
will not inconvenience you I should be
greatly obliged if arrangements could be
made to relieve me on the expiry of my
leave viz. on the 30th Nov. next.

Para 2 - I trust that I may not be thought
presumptuous in asking you to consider whether
my services to the Press may have entitled
me to a Pension: It is not for me to say
what the value of those services has been -

but I may at least claim that they have
been long (25 years). That they have been
honest - and that they not been wholly
unsuccessful as the Epitome of the same
answered will show.

Para 3 - I am happy in being in a position
to add that the Contracts secured by me
under a kind and sympathetic direction
up to 1895 has enabled me to leave the Press
secured in at least - $\frac{2}{3}$ rd of its income
by Contracts, which, if properly worked should
realize increasing annual profits. That the
also that the death of his long service, &
therefore perhaps somewhat highly paid man,
will come - of my reduction scheme submitted
begin on the 18th October 1898, being carried
out - but with modifications; by which a
saving of nearly 200/- per annum, can
be secured at once; as I have pointed out
to Mr. Annanally, M.D., whom I have
recommended as successor of the late

Assistant Superintendent Accounts Branch.

Respectfully soliciting an early reply

Respectfully,
Secretary - Government,

Our obedient servant

(Signed) Earl Fink

Secretary

Epitome

of the financial workings of the
Lawrence Ayles Press from 1876 to
1897 - under the Secretaryship of the
under signed -

Para 1 - Previous to my appointment by
Government in 1874 - a practical printer
managed the Press - but no reliable accounts
were kept as there were no stock-books - stock
- books were opened in 1876 - The value of
the property in that year - all told as appeared

of the Government Architect & the Superintendent
of the Government Press - was Rs. 103,387 -
In 1897, stock was again valued & stood
at Rs. 6,42,138 - inclusive of Rs. 1,84,200 -
contributed to the Lawrence Asylum from
1876 to 1897. Therefore - taking the valuation
of 1876 as the working Capital, we have a profit
of Rs. 5,38,751 - in 21 - years - or 23 1/2 percent
per annum -

Para 2 - Had the Press been closed in
1876, and had the stock realized full
book value, which is very unlikely, and
had the amount so realized been invested
in Government paper at 4% - it would have
realized - in 1897 - at compound interest
Rs. 1,84,467 - or less by Rs. 35,733 - than has
been paid to the Lawrence Asylum in Cash,
and Rs. 3,85,284 - less than its property
was valued at in that year -

Para 3 - Competition has of late years lowered
the rates obtainable for printing being

CHIEF SECRETARY
30 NOV. 1899
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Considerably - e.g. in 1897, the Press was
paid Rs. 9000 - for printing the Trade Returns
- in 1897 Rs. 3900 - only - but notwithstanding
this and other drawbacks - such as the
loss of more than 1/3rd of its outturn in
1891 - by the withdrawal of the Government
forms by the Government of India; and
both being to a great extent discredited
by being in the market for sale or lease
for some years - the Press is still able to
give the Lawrence Asylum Rs. 15,000 - annually
or 14% - on its original Capital - which is
Rs. 3000 - in excess of the sum the Trustees
pressed Government to accept as lease
in 1895 - as the best arrangement they
could make -

Para 4 - There may perhaps have been
some excuse for the action taken by the
Trustees at that time - as the Press
had not entirely recovered from the

action taken by the Government of
India in 1891. When without any
previous warning it withdrew the
Press Office from in favor of the Contract
of Government Press Calcutta - and
the Press lost about $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of its outturn.
Which the Government quite expected
and disorganised it - The imperative
necessity of reducing the establishment
and observing the strictest economy was
apparent - but the then Superintendent,
an expert from England, on a salary
rising to Rs 600. per mensem, failing
to grasp the situation I was compelled
to ask the Director's permission to set
him aside in all matters not
strictly technical - which being granted
I was able, almost immediately, to
bring the monthly expenses down by a
thousand Rupees per mensem.

1
The result that the year 1892 closed with a
profit of Rs 6000. instead of a heavy loss - Fortunately
the Venble. the Archdeacon was the only director in India
at the time, rendering prompt action feasible, and
it was with his kind assistance & sympathy alone,
that I was able to accomplish what I did; and
to gradually raise the Annual Contributions to
the Lawrence Agency to Rs 15,000. and what
must be at a higher figure very shortly.
Para 5. - I may perhaps be excused for quoting
here the opinion expressed by the Venble. the Archdeacon
at the time of the part. I took in regarding the
Press from an awkward position -
"I would suggest. (he wrote) that up to the
"30th September the Secretary should be allowed
"to draw a hundred rupees a month. The Editor, the
"withdrawal suddenly of the printing of 5000
"800 forms; the uncertainty of the continuance
"of the Press at all; and various other causes -
"making, as they have done, to the detriment of

"The Press, small, I believe, have placed the Press"
 "in a decidedly awkward position had it not
 been for the action of the Secretary; the way
 the business has been kept up since the loss of
 the Govt. forms has in my opinion been owing
 principally to the skill with which the Secretary
 has managed his part of the work; and to
 his having given up a time to the work since
 his retirement from Govt. service."

Para 6. The above brings the work up to
 the end of 1897 - in 1899 - the profits should
 increase by about Rs 8000 -

1st By the increased sales obtained
 on the renewal of our Railway Contract
 in January last.

2nd By reduction in establishment
 under my letter of resignation.

E. J. Firth

Secretary

1899
 Dept.
 Encl. No. 3
 To
 O. No. 1961

encl. no. 3
 to Pub. Secy.
 3540799

To the Auditor
 C. J. Firth

LAWRENCE ASYLUM PRESS,
 19th August, 1899.

FROM

E. J. FIRTH,
 Secretary,
 Lawrence Asylum Press.

TO

THE AGENTS TO THE TRUSTEES,
 Lawrence Asylum Press.

CHIEF SECRETARY
 30 NOV. 1899
 GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

GENTLEMEN,

At a meeting at the Press premises on the 15th July last it was stated that the Trustees were not satisfied with the results of the working of the Press. In this I perfectly agree with them, as my offer to lease the Press indicates; and I think that it would be only fair to all concerned that the causes of dissatisfaction should be clearly stated, and unless this is done I, as one most directly interested, consider that it would be unbecoming in me to continue to draw my salary as Secretary, for work inadequately performed. I therefore propose, unless I am specifically absolved from all blame, to request Government to relieve me of the duties to which it appointed me, which have of late been anything but congenial to me.

Para. 2.—This would not be an inappropriate opportunity for discussing the question of Financial v. Printing expert management raised by Mr. Fisher in para. 51, *et seq* of his report on Stock-taking, and I think that a service of 25 years entitles me to express an opinion on the past and present working of the Press which may be of some assistance in arriving at a solution of the problem.

FINANCIAL WORKING FROM 1876 TO 1897.

Para. 3.—Previous to my appointment by Government in 1874, a practical printer ran the Press, but no reliable accounts were kept as there were no Stock-books. Stock was taken and these books opened in 1876. The value of the property all told as appraised by the Government Architect and the Government Press was Rs. 1,03,387. In 1897 Stock was again valued at the lowest possible rates and stood, Rs. 6,42,138 inclusive of Rs. 1,84,200 contributed to the Lawrence Asylum during those years, (1876 to 1897). Therefore taking the valuation of 1876 as the working capital, we have a profit of Rs. 5,33,751 in 21 years, or 23½ per cent. per annum.

Para. 4.—Had the Press been closed in 1876, and had the Stock realized full book value, which is very unlikely, and had the amount so realized been invested in Government paper at 4%, it would have realized in 1897, at compound interest, Rs. 1,48,467 or less by Rs 35,733 than has been paid to the Asylum in cash and Rs. 3,83,284 less than its property as valued in that year.

Para. 5.—Competition has of late years lowered the rates obtainable for printing very considerably, e.g., in 1879 the Press was paid 9,000 for printing the Trade returns and in 1897 Rs. 3,900 only—but notwithstanding this and other drawbacks, such as the loss of more than half its out-turn in 1891 by the withdrawal of the W. O. Forms by the Government of India in 1891 and its being to a great extent discredited by being in the market for sale or lease for some years—the Press is still able to give the Lawrence Asylum Rs. 15,000 annually or 14% on its original Capital—which is 3,000 in excess of the sum the Trustees pressed Government to accept as lease in 1895, as the best arrangement they could make.

THREATENED COLLAPSE OF THE PRESS.

Para. 6.—In the above connection I should state that the then Directors were totally ignorant of the proposition made by the Trustees to Government direct and that it was by my intervention, with the sanction of the Directors, that the disaster was averted. And here I may perhaps be pardoned for narrating briefly one instance in which I saved the Press from possible collapse, which tells somewhat against management by an expert printer who was the direct cause of the averted danger.

Para. 7. In 1891 the Government of India, without any previous warning, withdrew the War Office forms in favor of the Contractor for printing Government forms, Calcutta, and the Press lost of about a third of its out-turn—which the Government quite expected would disorganize the Press. It was imperative that the establishment should be at once reduced and the strictest economy observed, but the then Superintendent, an expert from England on a salary rising to Rs. 600 per mensem, failing to grasp the situation, I was compelled to ask the Directors permission to set him aside in all matters not strictly technical, and, with the assistance of the present Superintendent and that of the Assistant Superintendent, Accounts Branch, I was able almost immediately to reduce the working expenses by Rs. 1,000 per month, with the result that the year 1892 closed with a profit of Rs. 6,000 instead of a heavy loss. Fortunately the Ven'ble the Archdeacon was the only Director in Madras at the time and it was with his kind assistance and sympathy alone that I was able to accomplish what I did and eventually to remove the Superintendent, and thus effect a further saving, (our present Superintendent draws only Rs. 250) since which time the contributions to the Asylum have stood steadily at Rs. 15,000.

Para. 8. I may perhaps be excused in quoting here the opinion, expressed by the Archdeacon at the time, of the share I took in rescuing the Press from an awkward position.

"I would suggest that up to the 30th September the Secretary should be allowed to draw Rs. 100 a month extra. The withdrawal suddenly of the printing of Government (W. O. forms) —The uncertainty of the continuance of the Press at all and various other causes working as they have done, to the detriment of the Press, would, I believe, have placed the Press in a decidedly bad position had it not been for the action of the Secretary. The way in which the business has been kept up since the loss of the Government forms, has, in my opinion, been owing principally to the skill with which the Secretary has managed his part of the work and to his having given extra time to the work since his retirement from Government Service."

CHANGE IN THE SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT.

Para. 9. The position has however changed of late years. The management from one of sympathy between the Agents and their Secretary, which enabled him to place the Press in its present position, is now one of incessant adverse criticism and suspicion which is seriously affecting both the efficiency and morale of the establishment. I shall quote from the records of the office in support of my opinion.

- (a) It may fairly be questioned whether a fixed establishment in imitation of Government Service without its attractions of either prestige or pension, is suitable to a trading concern like the Press. The intervals of promotion are too great and the graded pay too small to induce a rising man to wait for promotion and in consequence he takes service elsewhere—and I think that the logical conclusion is, that of three private presses working free against one on a fixed and rigid scale, the latter would soon find itself working with the scum of the profession—as a case in point. A gilder and binder who for years had drawn Rs. 20 a month, and was well worth it, was, on the introduction of Mr. Hill's scale, reduced (bad policy at any time) to Rs. 17—as there was no Rs. 20 vacancy in the scale—with the natural result that he was immediately engaged elsewhere on Rs. 25.
- (b) Again the pay of the Foremen of our Machine room is fixed at Rs. 60. Mr. Hill, by virtue of his position as Agent, becoming aware that he was worth more, offered him a post of Rs. 150 in the Government Press and of course I have lost him; and what makes the matter harder is, that we had all the trouble and expense of his apprenticeship.

BAD EFFECT ON SUBORDINATES.

Para 10.—It has come to be recognized that Mr. Hill is not adverse to receive reports from employes and many statements and much unnecessary correspondence has been the

outcome of an anonymous letter writer's imagination—these gentry enjoy seeing the trouble that their effusions create, and the result of such a system of espionage will be, that the honest men will leave us, as it is upon them principally that such attacks are delivered.

EXAMPLES.

- (a) A short time ago a paper came into my hands in which a junior clerk in the Accounts Branch had been amusing himself by drawing up, as he thought, an ideal establishment and vilifying seven of his fellow clerks with his own advancement in view. They were incompetent he stated and named them. This might have been considered a harmless amusement had it not been that I had previously received a letter from Mr. Hill (not the Agents) stating specifically that *seven* of my clerks of whom he could not have had any personal knowledge, were incompetent—and curiously enough named the very men whom my junior clerk had selected. As Mr. Hill wrote on second-hand information, I am at liberty to state, that the assertion was in every case false. I suggested a reference to the Accountant-General on this point which did not meet with approval.
- (b) I had a clerk under tuition as an Accountant for the Branch, who in my opinion required three months more at Head Office to fit him for the post—but I received peremptory orders to send him to Ooty at the end of the month. Why? He had relations at Ooty and was anxious to be off; so he got an introduction from one of my Store clerks to his father-in-law an Accountant in the Government Press, who introduced him to Mr. Hill—hence the order. The result has been that I have been obliged to bring the Branch books to Madras to be closed and balanced.
- (b) One other instance, of many, of what I consider injudicious interference. My Storekeeper, whose services it will be difficult to replace took to intemperate habits owing to family troubles and frequently absented himself. For this I put him under stoppages and distributed them to the Assistants who did his work—which was very heavy at the time. Informants considered it their duty to bring this to Mr. Hill's notice and the recipients were ordered to refund—thus placing me in a very undignified position.

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS.

Para. 11.—If commercial principles and an unsuspicious and sympathetic attitude towards their Secretary by the Direction is necessary to the welfare of the Press in respect to the establishment—which I respectfully contend it is,—it is equally so in respect to its financial operations. I will quote one instance of interference to illustrate this. In 1895 tenders were invited by the Madras Railway for printing its forms—which for many years had been in the hands of two firms—one in England and the other in Madras. I believe that this call was in a great measure the result of my representation to the Agent and Manager that such a step would probably result in a saving to the Company. We had a little over six weeks to prepare, a schedule of rates for 1,500 forms, determine what sizes of paper would be most economical, and engage a local firm to undertake the supply for three years. I knew something of the prevailing rates and so framed my tender as to secure the contracts, though to do so I was obliged to be contented with about 4 per cent. profit in the aggregate. I understood at the time that a firm in Bombay had run us very close at that.

In June 1898 the contract had to be renewed, and to avoid a call for tenders, I suggested that, if the Company found that their savings on employing the Press during the past three years would admit of it, we should be allowed to add 10 per cent. to all our bills of charge and renew the contract for another three years.

To this arrangement Mr. Hill objected on the ground that Government would not regard the proposal with favor; and suggested that the rates to be fixed for *each form* should be such as to yield the required centage—and taking the matter in his own hands, after nearly

three months, sent me a schedule of rates for adoption, which, on putting to the test, I found would land the Press in a heavy loss. I pointed this out to Mr. Hill by letter—and a compromise was agreed upon—but not before we had been put to the loss of a six months' delay in securing a contract at the revised rates.

Para. 12. Mr. Hill has put on record, what he considers, a justification of his interference with my management, which, whatever else may be said against it, has proved very effective, *vide* para. 4 *et seq.* above. Mr. Hill says that he had heard many things to its disadvantage before he was appointed Agent. I fancy we have all done that of every department but our own—certainly the Government Press is not an exception. I think that, had our positions been reversed, I should have made a confidant of him and that had we found any truth in the rumours, I should have suggested some means of rectifying matters privately without bringing his management into discredit and weakening his authority by listening to, if not encouraging, the tales of subordinates, and making them the subject of correspondence.

Para. 13. Be that as it may—though I still feel a keen interest in the Press, and have shewn my belief in its future, if properly managed, by repeatedly tendering to lease it, in which I have had the support of the leading firms in Madras—I cannot consent to take the responsibility of working on the lines recently introduced and feel that, unless a change for the better can be made, the only honest course open to me is to tender my resignation; feeling confident that the Direction will support my application to Government for some recognition of my 25 years, not unsuccessful service—in the shape of a pension or gratuity, to take the form of deferred pay which I think it will be admitted has not been adequate to results.

Para. 14. I have already put in my application for 3 months' privilege leave—and if this is granted to me from the 1st of September, it would afford a good opportunity for the Direction to test the accuracy of my statements and their bearing upon the questions at issue, *viz.*, the system to be adopted in the future management of the Press—and should it be determined to adhere to that in force I can then tender my resignation to Government.

Para. 15. My ideal of management, is one Trustee resident in Madras, (I don't think that the law requires that all the Trustees should reside in Ooty) to work with a financial Secretary of social standing, as a guarantee of his *bona fides*, and a Superintendent, engaged in the country for choice. Our most successful and least expensive Superintendents in the past have been so engaged.

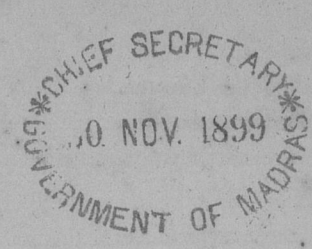
Our contracts, owing to our superior machine power, may keep us going, and even show an increase in profits, for a year or two, but, as at least two firms are rapidly overtaking us in that respect, and by the time our contract with the Railway expires—2½ years from the present time—we shall have to meet competition and may lose Wrenn and Bennett's work at any time, having withdrawn from Job and Book Work, we shall have nothing to fall back upon and shall be worse off than we were in 1892. Our only chance therefore, assuming that the Trustees intend to work the Press, appears to me to be, to bring our plant of jobbing types &c. up to the standard of other firms, strengthen our reading section, and advertize extensively that we have done so; and this should be done without loss of time, but it will be necessary to first settle the question of Government interference, so as to be in a position to meet the trade on equal terms.

I remain, Gentlemen,
Yours obedient Servant,

Secretary.



Encl. no. 2
to Pub. Com.
33/10/99



Com.
Lawrence Cypher Press
1 July 1898

My dear Hill
I have just received your letter of the 30th ult. re the 4. Statements re Railway Firms and the Agent & Managers letter of the 29th June.

You say that you will call in tomorrow to learn my views on the rates you propose to adopt in our tender for the Railway Firms - but you do not send the data upon which you arrive at your rates -

All I have been able to do from the data before me and accepting the figures in the 4. Statements to be correct is to make a comparison between the total that would have been billed for in 1896 - at your and our rates - and find that at your rates we should lose Rs 10,000 - or 30% - on the forms actually supplied during that year. It follows therefore that we shall have to put a sufficient profit (to be agreed upon) to the 30% and add that to your rates. I very much fear the result -



San Thome

30th November 1899

From G. J. Fitch

Secretary to the Press

Joint Chief Secretary to Government.

Sir
I have the honor to invite the attention
of Government to its order of the 1st May 1874
No. 486 - Appointing me Secretary to the Press
and to submit the enclosed
papers for its information and consideration.
Para 2 - I venture respectfully to invite
special attention to the following facts:
That - during my Secretaryship of 26 years
the Press has been raised from a very third
rate concern to the fore front of the Printing
Establishments in Southern India - and
Epelone long letter of resignation - That in
1892 I, as admitted by the Venble. the Archbishop,
(Para 5. of the Epelone above) saved the Press by

- (a) Secretary's letter to the Agents
19th August 1899
- (b) Secretary's letter of Resignation
21st October 1899
- (c) Agents letter to Secretary
Accepting Resignation
14th November 1899
- (d) Secretary's letter to Mr. Hill
1st July 1898

1899
Dept.
Enclos. No. 1
To 1901
S. No.

encl. no. 1
to Pub. encl.
3340

Will come to the office to meet you

at 10 o'clock tomorrow - Saturday

We hope we shall be able to arrive

at some of the definite locations of the

revised Schedule

(Signed) G. J. Fitch

True copy
G. J. Fitch

2017 2018

My individual exertions, from disaster, which
the Government of India anticipated might
result from the unexpected transfer of the
printing of the War Office forms (the staple
of the Press output at the time) to the Contractor
for Government forms Calcutta. That,
in 1898, another disaster was averted by me
(vide para 11 of my letter to the Agents dated
19th August 1899, and letter to Mr. Hill dated
15th July 1898) - Enclosed for ready reference -
and the Press saved from a probable annual
loss on its Railway Contract, - of from
£500 to ten thousand Papes - and I
trust that these facts, taken into consideration
with the smallness of my salary, whilst
producing these results, may be taken
into kind consideration by Government -
when considering my prayer to be allowed
either a pension or a double gratuity
on my retirement.

Para 3. The Agents quote order n° 350 -
Educational dated 11th June 1898. which
deals with the Agents' recommendation

that the established practice of granting pension
to deserving employees on retirement should be
continued on a modified scale &c. - Though Government
declined to make itself responsible in the matter
it merely provided that "Pensions should cease as
regards all future employees" - which the Agents
have read - all employees, though many have
put in long service expecting that provision had
been secured for their future - and having adopted
this restricted view have applied it to my case.

Para 4 - I am leaving the Press as, owing
to the new regime adopted by the Trustees and
their Agents, the Secretary's appointment is no
longer a Government one; but, I may add
that I am doing so at a time when, thanks
to a great measure to my exertions, the Press
is in a flourishing condition - being in possession
of contracts representing 2/3rd of its output,
which, if judiciously worked should give
increasing profits as the initial expenses have
been already covered - The year now coming
to a close should show an advance of

NOTE FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

In submitting his resignation Mr Firth the Secretary of the Lawrence Asylum Press requested that he might be allowed a pension from the funds of the Press for his services in connection with the Press for the last 25 years. The Agents to the Trustees of the Press accepted his resignation but declined to grant him any pension on the grounds

- (1) that all possible profits from the Press should go to the Lawrence Asylum
- (2) that under the rules laid down in G.O. no 350 Rd of 11th June 1898 a pension is inadmissible
- (3) ^{that} Mr Firth has never been a full time Secretary.

In regard to these grounds it is true the Press exists for the benefit of the Asylum but it is for consideration whether the profits should not be calculated after meeting all the legitimate charges of the Press of which the pensions of servants employed prior to the date of G.O. no 350 Rd of 11th June 1898 is one. This G.O. abolishes the pension system only as regards future employees and cannot affect Mr Firth. He ~~was~~ ^{could} not

Nearly Rupees Ten Thousand over/rupees
Years - Have the honor to remain

Sir

Your most-obedient Servant

Edw. Firth

... officer at least till about 1892 or so. As the papers on the subject are put up with a file now with H.M. the exact date cannot be given at present. When he was appointed Secretary of the Press he was in Govt Service (employed in the military accounts office) and the remuneration given him for performing the duties of Secretary was only in the shape of an allowance. The amount of this allowance was Rs 100 at first but it was subsequently raised on one or two occasions till it was Rs 250 at last. After his retirement from Govt Service in 1892 or so he represented that he could devote more time to his duties in the Press and it was then that the last increase was given him. Till this date at least he was not a full time officer but the Agents to the Trustees consider that he was not such even since. Mr. Firth appeals against the decision of the Agents to the Trustees regarding his pension.

As the papers on the subject are now with the file about the last stock taking now with H.M. may the present current be over till they are returned?

H.M.
Mr. Firth does not meet the Agents' contention that he was never a full time Secretary. Not being an employee, he cannot get pension. And he is not worth a gratuity. But if H.M. wishes



B. I have kept the other file re Lawrence Asylum Press until intimation should reach one of Mr. Firth's resignation should I think the Agents of the Trustees are quite right to decline to give Mr. Firth a pension. There is no appeal to be carried out except in so far as the L.A. Committee are bound to carry out orders of Govt. We should say that the matter is one for the competence of the Trustees to decide. The papers spoken of in the office note will be laid through.

19 12 99
and that Govt sees no reason to interfere.
At 22.12.99

Secy.
Submitted that H.M. may be asked to return the papers for a week. They have been with H.M. since before I took charge.

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

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READ AGAIN G.O., No. _____, DATED _____
189

CURRENT No. _____

ENCLOSURES TO G. No. _____

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
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