

[E.]

500-17-12-02.

Educational (1903) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 88

DATED 19-2-03

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Pel...

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

2,900-5-11-00.

Educational (190³) Department.

CURRENT No. 238

From

[Name] Edgar Thurston Esqr.

[Designation] Superintendent, Govt. Museum,

[Station] Madras.



No. 105

Dated 9th February 1903.

Enclosures Two

Received 10 1903.

Registered 11 1903.

SUBJECT.

with his remarks
 Forwarding a petition from A. S. Duraiswamy Pillay
 formerly head taxidermist to the Museum praying for his
 restoration to the service in a position analagous to the one he
 occupied before on at least for a term a pension proportionate
 to his service with any penalties.

BACK PAPERS.

540 hrs 17-8-99

466 hrs 15-7-99

FURTHER PAPERS.

To

The Secretary to Government,

Educational Department.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a petition from A. S. Duraiswamy Pillay, formerly head taxidermist to the Museum, who was dismissed from the Service in accordance with G.O.

X Educational, No. 466, dated 15th July, 1899, under circumstances detailed in my No. 407 dated 30th June 1899, Copy of which is enclosed for information.

2. It is unnecessary for me to express here any opinion on the petitioner's Service, as he has himself quoted extracts from one of my annual reports, and my letter referred to above, which show that he was a valuable member of my staff. Since his dismissal he has, I know, earned a slender living by private practice in taxidermy, and the recent ruling of the Government of India, concerning the export of birds' skins, has, I gather, hit him hard, as he has made

advances to bird-catchers, on whom he depends for the supply of skins.

3. It would be impracticable to restore him to the Service of the Museum as suggested by him. And I must leave the question of conferring a pension, as an act of mercy, entirely to Government.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Edmund Thurston

Superintendent,

Government Museum.

To

His Excellency the Governor in Council,

FORT ST. GEORGE,

Madras.

THROUGH THE SUPERINTENDENT. GOVERNMENT MUSEUM, MADRAS.

The humble Memorial of A. S. Duraisawmy Pillay,
late Head Taxidermist, Government Museum
Madras, Dated 7th February 1903.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That Petitioner was Head Taxidermist, Government Museum, Madras, for 21 years, and under G. O. No. 466 dated 15th July 1899. Educational Department, was dismissed from the service.

2. That Petitioner memorialized the Government praying for a merciful reconsideration of his case, by reason of his past faithful service and self-denying labours in the interests of the Institution which he, and his father before him, had served so well and loyally—services which earned for the latter the name of "The John Hunter of India" from such a distinguished scientist as the late Surgeon General Furnell, while superintendent of the Museum, a reputation which Petitioner had set before himself to maintain and perpetuate in his own person, and the opinion of Petitioner held by successive Superintendents and more pointedly expressed by Dr. Thurston, under whom the bulk of his matured knowledge and experience in his special craft were brought into action, (vide margin extract from the Museum annual report for 1895—96) not to mention the many medals Petitioner has received, and the high encomiums, passed on his handicraft by Scientists and others competent to pronounce an opinion on the subject are sufficient proofs, Petitioner ventures to think, that he, in a great measure, succeeded in his aspirations. But the Government of the time actuated, no doubt, by motives of public policy and principle, and to maintain the purity of the Service saw no reason to deviate from established regulations in Petitioner's individual case, despite Dr. Thurston's recommendation in his favor recorded in his letter to Government. No. 407 dated 30th June 1899.

"15 Marine Gallery—A conspicuous addition was made to the contents of this gallery in the shape of a series of well-prepared skeletons representative of various families of sharks, rays, and bony fishes. The manner in which the Head Taxidermist, during my absence on tour, without any suggestion from myself initiated this series, gave me great satisfaction. The series includes a very fine skeleton of a sword fish (*Histiophorus gladius*) caught off Madras."

"I am placing the whole matter before Government with my own clear conviction that his case *Prima Facie* merits dismissal. I

however submit herewith (Appendix T) for the favourable consideration of Government, a copy of an appeal for mercy which he has submitted to me. Of his service to the Museum I have nothing but unqualified good to say that he has always been a hard working and loyal assistant to me, ever ready to help in an emergency, and devoted to the interests of the special department in which he has done excellent work, and in which I can say without exaggeration, I should find it impossible to adequately replace him.

I venture therefore to suggest, either that he should be permitted to remain on my staff on condition that he must at once leave if he becomes a further slave to debt, or if I find that his detention is prejudicial to the discipline of his department or that, in consideration of good service, Government will be pleased to award him some pension proportionate to his 21 years service."

3. That Petitioner thus thrown upon his own resources at a critical period of his career, with penury staring him in the face, and a large and growing family to maintain and educate, manfully adapted himself to the painfully altered circumstances under which he found himself placed, and sought in the exercise of his profession a means of livelihood, to keep the wolf from the door. Petitioner was thus upto this enabled to derive a precarious income by exporting bird skins for the preparation of fishing flies, and hoped the trade would continue, but the embargo placed upon the traffic by recent legislation has again deprived him of his occupation and placed him in a state of great embarrassment, incurring a heavy loss of Rs. 1500 advanced to jungle-folk while on their collecting expedition, which is irrecoverable except in the shape of skins, these people being very poor and not in a position to refund. Petitioner's profession is hereditary, and barring his general education, all his training was concentrated towards so perfecting himself in it as not only to be a credit to his ancestral calling but of use to the Institution within the precincts of which he was born, reared and educated and lived, and hoped to end his days, with the result that he now finds himself utterly unfitted for any other career, and if the Petitioner now takes the liberty of approaching Your Excellency, it is for very existence, as he sees nothing before him but utter destitution and starvation.

4. Petitioner will not here discuss the merits or demerits of his case or call into question the justice of the decision which has placed him in his present unfortunate position. In the view of the Government, he had committed an offence, and met with its due retribution with resignation and humility. He only approaches Your Lordship with the hope that, having regard to the circumstances detailed above, Your Lordship will be graciously pleased to take his sad case into merciful reconsideration and grant him the relief he seeks. Petitioner ventures to submit that he has committed no offence deserving the extreme punishment of dismissal, and consequent ruin, after 21 years of devoted, useful self-denying service, after having expended in it the best of his life and energies, to at last find himself in the plight of a man with no career open to him, and burdened with a large family. His indebtedness was the result of no improvidence, and if he placed himself under monetary obligations to his subordinates, it was at the worst an indiscretion and an error of judgment only, not however without extenuating circumstances, as a rapid succession of domestic trials had placed him in a position of extreme difficulty.

5. In the exercise of the prerogative of mercy, the Royal clemency has been extended even to criminals on the occasion of the Coronation of our King Emperor, while petitioner without being a Criminal, but the mere victim of untoward circumstances from which no one is free, is yet condemned to a fate of misery and humiliation which even the most hardened offender against the law would view with horror, and would it be deemed presumption in Petitioner if he now craves for similar mercy at Your Lordships hands?

6. Petitioner therefore humbly prays that Your Lordship will be graciously pleased, purely as a token of clemency, to afford him what relief lies in Your Lordship's power in restoring him to the service in a position analagous to the one he occupied before, without a disruption in the working of the department, or interference with existing rights and claims, or at least to grant him a pension proportionate to his service with such penalties as his case may demand and the rules provide, to save him and his family from the destitution which would otherwise be their fate.

YOUR EXCELLENCY'S MEMORIALIST.

A. Duraiswamy Pillay.

No 407

Govt. Museum,
Egmore, Madras,
30th June 1899.

From

Edgar Thurston Esq.
Superintendent, Govt. Museum,
Madras

To

The Secretary to Government
Educational Department.

Sir,

I have the honour to bring to the notice of Government the following facts in connection with the insolvency of my Head Taxidermist, A. S. Duraisamy Pillay.

2. His pay is, I may mention at the outset, Rs. 60 per mensem, and he lives in free quarters in the Museum grounds.

3. On my return from furlough, in February, 1898, he informed me that he was encumbered with debts, and applied for leave to take advantage of the Insolvent Debtors Act. Knowing that he had numerous relations living parasitically on him, and in consideration of his good service, I gave him permission to seek the protection of the Court, after calling on him to produce full statements of his debts, and the causes thereof. Copies of these

statements are attached (A and B). The liabilities are recorded as being Rs 3727-14-6; and, it is to be noted, no reference is made to obligations to any member or members of my staff (Vide para 7 infra).

4. The Court declared him entitled to the benefit of the Act, and he was accordingly discharged (Fort St. George Gazette May 17, 1898).

5. As a warning to him, he received from me a memorandum to the effect that I was taking a very lenient view of his indebtedness, but cautioning him that I should have to take a very serious view of a repetition of his pecuniary embarrassment.

6. Later, towards the end of 1898, half the salary of the Head Taxidermist was attached in connection with a promissory note for Rs 538-8, executed by his father-in-law in 1896, and in which he was a surety under circumstances narrated in Appendix C. Believing that he honestly thought, at the time of his first insolvency, that he was under no liability in connection with this promissory note, I granted him permission to file a petition in the Court for the relief of insolvent debtors. The Causes of his further insolvency, and Statement of his

liabilities, amounting to Rs. 818-9¹/₂, are given in appendices D and E. The judgement of the Court was that rupees twenty be paid monthly to the Official Assignee from 10th May 1899 for six months. In default of any one instalment, the petition will be dismissed.

7. Quite recently it came under my notice that the Head Taxidermist was, at the time of his first insolvency in 1898, under pecuniary obligations to four members of my staff viz:-

A.B. Vijayaragava Moode	2 nd Assistant	Pay Rs. 35 - 50 p.m.
Valoo Moodaliam	2 nd Taxidermist	Pay Rs 25 - 30 " "
A. Isaiak	3 rd Taxidermist	Pay Rs 20 - 25 " "
E. Venkojee Row	Peon & Printer	Pay Rs. 7. " "

And I discovered that, though no mention of any of these persons was made in the Statement of debts (Appendix A) as submitted to me, they were included in his petition in the Insolvency Court (nos 15, 16, 17, 18 Appendix F) in connection with the signature to promissory notes to the total amount of Rs. 1406-6-0, made up as follows:-

E. Venkoba (= Venkojee) Row	Rs 291-6-0
Valoo Moodaliam	604-4-0
A. Isaiak	221-4-0
A.B. Vijayaragava Moode	289-8-0
	1406-6-0

8. I then sent a memorandum to the Head Taxidermist, calling on him for clear statements, showing:-

a. Loans of money actually received by him from members of my staff;

b. amounts for which members of my staff signed prom. notes;

c. amounts owing at the present time to members of my staff, and amounts for which they may still be liable.

The reply of the Head Taxidermist to this memorandum is given in appendices G and H. From Appendix H it appears that, while the Second Assistant has paid up Rs 289-8 and cleared himself, the two taxidermists and the peon are (conjointly with a former member of my staff) still liable to the extent of Rs 686-4.

9. I further sent a memorandum to the Head Taxidermist to the following effect:-

"In the statement of his debts submitted by my order in February 1898, no reference is made by the Head Taxidermist to his pecuniary relations with members of my staff, whose names appear in his 'petition to the Insolvent Court' viz:-

- (1) Venkoba Bow, printer and peon;
- (2) Valoo Inoodliar, Taxidermist;
- (3) A. Isiah, Taxidermist;
- (4) A. B. Vijayaragava Inoodliar, Second Assistant.

2. The Head Taxidermist will explain in writing why he kept back from me information, which he knew that, as head of his office, I should possess, viz. that the members of my staff referred to above had backed his promissory notes, and so made it almost inevitable that they would have to go through the insolvency Court.

The reply of the Head Taxidermist to this memorandum is given in Appendix I.

10. Summing up the case in few words, the main facts against the Head Taxidermist are as follows:-

a. He became insolvent, in 1898, for an amount which rendered him liable to be removed from the public service.

b. He came under monetary obligations to brother servants in the office for very large amounts, considering his own and their rates of monthly income.

c. He kept back from the knowledge of the head of his office the fact that these obligations existed at the time of his

disclosing his financial embarrassment
in 1898.

11. I am placing the whole matter
before Government with my own clear
conviction that his case, *prima facie*,
merits dismissal. I, however, submit
herewith (appendix f), for the favourable
consideration of Government, a copy of
an appeal for mercy, which he has sub-
mitted to me. Of his services to the Museum
I have nothing but unqualified good
to say, and he has always been a
hard-working and loyal assistant
to me, ever ready to help in an emer-
gency and devoted to the interests
of his special department, in which
he has done excellent work, and
in which, I can say without exag-
geration, I should find it impossible
to adequately replace him.

12 I venture, therefore, to sug-
gest either that he should be permitted
to remain on my staff on condition
that he must at once leave if he
becomes further slave to debt, or
if I find that his retention is prejudi-
cial to the discipline of his department;
that, in consideration of his good ser-
vice, Government will be pleased to

award him some pension proportional
to his twenty one years' service (appen-
-dix k.)

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

(Signed) Edgar Thurston

Superintendent,
Govt. Museum.

(True Copy)

Edgar Thurston
Superintendent,
Government Museum.

L

C. No. 238

SUBJECT.

Petition of Duraiswami Pillai,
formerly head taxidermist of the
Govt. Museum.

In proceedings no. 540 Est. of 17th August
1899 the Govt. refused to reconsider the
order already passed in the petitioner's
case and it is submitted that the same
course may now be adopted.

2. With reference to paragraph 3 of
Mr. Thurston's letter no dismissed person
is eligible for pension. For giving any
Compassionate allowance the sanction
of the Secretary of State is necessary.

17/4/03

The Petitioner must be informed that his requests are
inadmissible. It was a bad case (esp^l the borrow
fr. other Museum officials) but good taxidermists are
scarce, & it is a pity he was dismissed.

16/2/03

Pleasedraft

18/2/03

The draft placed below may issue.

By
18/2/3

sep
18/2/03

By
18/2/3

Letter of transmittal
of the
specimens of the
plant.

The specimens of the plant
are forwarded to you
under separate cover
and are accompanied by
a list of the specimens
and a description of the
plant.

The specimens of the plant
are forwarded to you
under separate cover
and are accompanied by
a list of the specimens
and a description of the
plant.

[E.]
12

1,000-7-5-02.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

READ AGAIN G.O., No. , dated 190

" " " " " " 190

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 238, From the Suppt. Govt. Museum, No. 105, dated 9th Febry. 1903.

" " " " " " 190

" " " " " " 190

ORDER No. 88, dated 19. 2. 1903.

Min.

The petitioner should be informed that his requests are inadmissible.

sep
18/2/03

By
18/2/3

By
18/2/3

To.
The S. G. M.
sep
21/2/3

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

190 .

READ AGAIN G.O., No. _____
 190 .

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITO.

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

N.B.—

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