

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

of
Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	263	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	6. 5.	1887

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Financial Consultation, 12th May 1857.

No. 3. Read the following letter from S. D. BIRCH, Esq., Sub-Treasurer; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated 20th April 1857, No. 1065.

SIR,

One of the events contemplated in the Honorable Court's Despatch of 8th April 1856, having taken place the Government Agency having been closed on the 26th January, the Salary of this Office has become reduced to Rupees 2,000 per mensem.

2. I have no official knowledge of the views entertained by the Commissioner for the revision of Civil Salaries with regard to the Treasury, although, I understand, that a proposition has been made by him, to fix the Salary at *Rupees 24,000 per annum*. However this may be, I trust the Government will not think me premature in now soliciting that consideration of my case which the terms of the Honorable Court's Despatch, above referred to, have led me to hope was meditated by them, either when Mr. Ricketts should have come to a decision upon the Office, or when the Government Agency should have ceased to exist.

3. With the recommendation that Government were pleased, so lately as August 1855, to transmit to the Honorable Court, that the Salary of the Sub-Treasurer, should be Rupees 30,000 per annum, there will be no occasion for my occupying their time with any remarks upon the responsible character of the Office; this has been urged upon their notice upon former occasions, and assented to. I would submit that whatever reduction may eventually arise out of the Proceedings of the Commissioner, they will, as is the general practice in the Honorable Company's Service, operate prospectively, and not affect present incumbents of Office. I may however remark, that late changes in the Savings Bank have materially increased the responsibility of that Office. The amount of Deposits has been extended from Rupees 500 to Rupees 1,500, and a large amount of Treasury Notes and Government Securities have been handed over to the Office. The number of Depositors now amounts to 6000. For these and other reasons that I shall proceed to state, I would ask that so long as I hold the post of Sub-Treasurer, I may be allowed the salary which that Officer has hitherto been considered entitled to.

4. I have been since March 1838, with the exception of a few months, in the Financial line. I was for 5 years an Assistant in the Treasury, for 2 years I acted as Sub-Treasurer, and I have been at the Head of the Office for 8 years, so that out of a Service of 25 years, which expired on the 9th November 1856, I have passed 15 in the Treasury, and altogether 18 in the Financial Department. I need scarcely observe, that employment for so long a period, in one particular line, must militate against my obtaining promotion in any other; and so far, as I am able to judge, there is little probability of it in this particular Department.

5. The Government may perhaps think that my title to consideration is strengthened by the following facts, which shew, that although I have performed the duties of Government Agent to the close of the Office, I have not received that remuneration from it to which I had a just claim, or to which I was fairly entitled.

6. The Government Agents were allowed Fees on certain transactions carried out by them for their Constituents, among these was one on the transfer of property from one Loan to another. Until the transfer of the Loan of 1841 this Fee had been changed, but when this Loan was advertised for discharge or transfer in 1853, a clause in the Notice of the Supreme Government specified that, "Proprietors who may transfer their Promissory Notes into this new Loan through the Government Agent, shall not be subject to the payment of the Fees prescribed in the rules of the Government Agency, for transferring Notes from one Loan to another." This clause was introduced, I am credibly informed, upon the recommendation of the Government Agent in Calcutta, who received a consolidated allowance from Government for the duties he performed and was under the impression that the other Agencies were constituted like his own, that the Officers in charge had no personal interest in the Fees, but that these were carried to the credit of Government; so far as Calcutta and Bombay were concerned, the Notice affected only Government itself, but it deprived the Government Agents at Madras of Fees to

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which they had a clear right, and which had been levied up to that period; the loss to myself was Rupees 4,500, the transaction being nearly 90 Lacs. Again, shortly after the Notification of the abolition of the Agency appeared, the Supreme Government ruled, that Securities withdrawn from that time until the close of the Agency, if withdrawn on account of its abolition, should not be chargeable with Fees. The Accountant General and myself remonstrated against the rule being carried out here, the Government however directed, that the practice laid down in Bengal should be observed, recognizing, however, the anomalous position of the Government Agents, they observe: "With regard to the observations made by the Agents in para: 2 of their letter, it is to be remarked that the circumstance of the Fees in the Madras Agency being receivable by the Agents and not carried to the credit of Government, does not affect the question as respects the Depositors. It will however be open to the Agents to prefer to Government a claim for compensation, on account of the loss of the Fees to which they consider themselves entitled on Securities withdrawn before the closing of the Agency." The accompanying Statement* shews the amount

* No. 1. of Fees drawn by the Sub-Treasurer, since the date on which the Government instructions were issued, it will be seen, that they fell off to a small amount, almost immediately, so that although the work performed by the Agents has been far more heavy and responsible, they have not received even the average amount of Fees:—there can be but little doubt that the usual rates of business would have continued, and that the Fees would have still equalled their former amounts. I trust, therefore, that Government will think that I am keeping well within the margin, when I ask, that the compensation to which I may be considered entitled, may be fixed at the difference between the amount actually drawn and the quarterly mean of former years, thus making my total allowance up to Rupees 30,000 per annum, and that in consideration of my lengthened period of Service in the Financial Department, I may be permitted to draw the same rate of Salary which was contemplated when I accepted the Office of Sub-Treasurer.

7. In conclusion, I would beg to be permitted to repeat what I brought to the notice of Government in my letter of the 11th August 1855, No. 274. In it I observed, "the change that has within the last year taken place in the mode of granting Provincial Bills has relieved the Accountant General's Office of the responsibility which attached to that portion of its business and for which the Deputy Accountant General receives Fees. In the abolition of that appointment which is contemplated, it is presumed these Fees will revert to the Government. The measure above referred to, which emanated from a suggestion of this Office, is one that has, it is believed, afforded the Public much satisfaction. My reason for adverting to it is with a view to strengthen my appeal, by shewing that increased duties and responsibilities have devolved upon the Sub-Treasurer, duties for which others have received and continue to receive special remuneration, and to solicit attention to the fact that the amount derivable from this source would of itself quite, if not more than meet the amount which the Sub-Treasurer's Salary will be deficient, consequent upon the abolition of the Government Agency"

8. The Deputy Accountant Generalship has ceased to exist, and from that date the Fees referred to have been carried to the credit of Government; the number of Bills issued from this Office in the last eight months has been 4555, their amount Rs. 107,70,076-10-4, and the sum credited to Government* as Fees has been Rupees 7,419.

(Signed) S. D. BIRCH,
Sub-Treasurer.

Fort Saint George, Financial Consultation, 12th May 1857.

No. 1.

Statement of Fees drawn by the Sub Treasurer, as Joint Government Agent, from 1st May 1855 to 28th February 1857.

	Rs.	As.	P.
From 1st May to 31st July 1855	1,130	2	2
" 1st August to 31st October 1855	1,493	5	8
" 1st November 1855, to 31st January 1856	783	3	7
" 1st February to 30th April	967	13	3
" 1st May to 7th August	430	1	10
" 8th August to 31st October	335	0	8
" 1st November 1856 to 31st January 1857	325	12	0
" 2nd to 28th February	27	2	5
	Rupees 5,492	9	7

(Signed) J. D. BIRCH,
Sub. Treasurer

FORT ST. GEORGE,
GENERAL TREASURY,
20th April 1857.

ORDER THEREON, No. 263; dated 6th May 1857.

No. 4.

The Government cannot at present enter upon a consideration of the subject of the foregoing letter.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

Micro.

See Councils Despatch of April
1856 defining the consideration
of this question until it had come
before Mr. Pickatts —

Mr. Pickatts has communicated
to the Govt 11 Oct 56. Enclosure Page 9
his idea of what the Madras Sub
Treasury pay should be viz R
24000 per annum — what it is now
since the Agency has ceased — but
his communication is "Confidential" —
#70

The fact is that answer to the Com.
10 Jan 57 P 3
- mission took no exception
to his proposal touching the
pay of the Sub Treasurer - all the
they did to other parts of his
scheme.

JP

It appears that this appropriation

is premature. I am

certainly it is.

I conceive the original

recommendation of this fact
to fix the salary at 2500 \$
holds good.

Mr. D. M. Nelson, No 263, 2/6/57

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The fact cannot at present
enter upon a consideration
of the subject of the foregoing

letter

Fort S. George
6 May 1857

JP

The Sub Treasurer
Diplo. Sig. E. Maltby
Ag. Chief Secy.