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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 76 Press Mis.
37-38

Dated 18-2- 1867.

37-38 2/8

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 37. Read the following letter from the Accountant General, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Fort Saint George, 17th August 1866, No. 163.

Post Audit Department.

Under the Orders of Government, quoted against paragraphs 73 and 75 of Civil Auditor's Manual (Chapter XX), pensioners residing in the interior are required to be mustered half-yearly by an European Officer, and this has to be done at head quarters, because the Descriptive Rolls, at least of Yeomiahdars, have to be kept under the Collector's lock and key. The Collector of Godavery now represents that these mustering journeys are a hardship to pensioners; that Tahsildars might be trusted; or that, at all events, it might suffice for the pensioners to appear before the European Officer when his annual tour brought him into the neighbourhood; I forward only an extract of his letter, as the rest deals with other matters, and indeed the letter whereto he was replying was not intended to raise the general question at all.

Of mustering—At present the pensioners appear at Huzoor twice a year to be mustered.

Collector of Godavery proposes to muster in interior as may suit the men.

2. There can be no doubt that pensioners, especially aged and indigent pensioners, would be thankful to be relieved from the necessity of this appearance, but their personal attendance is no greater hardship now than it was when Government first required it, nor would it ever have been demanded had it not been thought necessary for the protection of Government. Travelling has not grown more difficult in the lapse of years; the appearance has been demanded in past years of aged men now dead, and cannot, therefore, be regarded as a new grievance by those who have grown old on the Pension Roll. Furthermore, these people have advantages not allowed elsewhere in the matter of drawing pensions; they can draw from the nearest Taluq, subject only to appearing twice a year at the Huzoor. In Upper India a pensioner can draw only at the Huzoor, and though the average district there be much smaller than the average district here, some run to a very large size, and in some travelling is not easy.

The present system may be inconvenient, but it is not a grievance for it is old, and presses no harder now than of old.

The Madras system is more indulgent than that of Upper India.

3. Separating the case of Yeomiahdars, for whom special precautions against fraud seem to have been thought necessary, I should venture to propose that each pensioner holding a permanent payable order be allowed to present himself for examination before one of the superior District Officers, be he Collector, Sub-Collector, or Deputy Collector, either in Camp or at the Head Quarters of the Taluq; and with this view to recommend the preparat on of a general Descriptive Pension Roll for each Taluq, which might be lodged in the records of the Taluq, whereby the pretended pensioners might be checked, and wherein the inspecting Officer might note with his own hand the signs of advancing age. At present the original description remains for ever unchanged; it may have been accurate when a man was forty, "cat's eyes," and "a black beard," though it would be impossible therefrom, twenty years later, to identify the blind old man of sixty with a scanty grey beard; yet, of course, no intermediate changes could be made in a document of the nature of a Pension Certificate. I could not, however, recommend that mustering be dispensed with altogether, and that Tahsildars be left unchecked, for the District Sheristadar on the old system was a more important Officer than the Tahsildar is now; yet Government stipulated that the mustering should be by an *European* subordinate. Besides, I consider a further and rarer check desirable; the Tahsildar should compare marks before ordering payment month by month, and the claimant should be further examined at intervals by an independent Officer, who may also by his notes keep the Office Descriptive Roll up to date. Touching Yeomiahdars I have said nothing; Government had doubtless good reasons for demanding special precautions at first, and can, therefore, best judge how far it is prepared to relax them.

Recommends that mustering be continued, but be done by Range Officer, who should have register of marks, and should keep it corrected up to date.

4. I need scarcely add that no change should, under any circumstances, be made which would in the least facilitate fraud, but fear that even now fraud is far from rare, especially in the case of women pensioned on the old Native Pension Fund, for many of whom have far passed the ordinary limit of human life.

Fraud now suspected to be not uncommon.

Extract from a letter from the Collector of Godavery District, to the Accountant General, Fort Saint George; dated 3rd August 1866, No. 81.

* * *

Para. 2. The second question is, whether the half-yearly inspections under Rule 75, Chapter XX of the Civil Auditor's Manual, should be maintained if permanent payable orders are to be issued in all cases. The Tahsildars now hold a high position, and I do not see why their monthly examinations should not be trusted and considered sufficient. When the entire responsibility is left with the Treasury Officer, whether he belongs to Taluq or Huzoor, I have reason to think he will be more careful than under a double inspection. In fact a Taluq Officer has better opportunities of knowing the truth in such matters than distant Officers.

3. It is indeed no small hardship to pensioners, most of whom are aged persons and in indigent circumstances, to travel every six months to my Huzoor station or that of a Division Officer. Occasionally when the Collector and his subordinates move into the Taluqs, they may take an opportunity of seeing them.

(True Extract).

(Signed) H. A. MORAES,
Ag. Chief Assistant.

No. 38. ORDER THEREON, 18th February 1867, No. 76.

There is nothing in paragraph 75, Chapter XX of the Civil Auditor's Manual, which necessitates the mustering of pensioners only at the Collector's Head Quarters. This very necessary duty can and should be performed periodically by the Collector, and his Covenanted subordinates, and Deputy Collectors when they are on Circuit or at their Head Quarters, as Mr. Lushington proposes; when necessary an extract from the Descriptive Roll in the Collector's charge can be given to each such Officer for temporary use, with strict injunctions for its careful custody and return to the Collector when no longer wanted.

2. The Board of Revenue will arrange that the same course be followed in the case of Yeomiahdars.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Accountant General.
,, Board of Revenue.
,, Collector of
,, Pension Department.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Financial Supt.
No 294/66.

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It is a proper precaution to have at Head Quarters only, a carefully imposed descriptive pension roll. I would not touch on the value of a paper of the kind, by repeating the important particulars in copies which are to be in the Salaries & the District. Facilities for frauds of kinds would be multiplied. In practice, I believe the Sanctioning Officers in our Collectorates, do muster pensioners & Sepoys Chokeydars too - If they do not, a bad old practice has been wrongly abandoned & should at once be revived. -

I think the time to order something to be done about ascertaining how many of the Native Pensioners

yrs
JP

Extract from a letter from the Collector of Godavery District to the Accountant General Fort Saint George dated 3rd August 1866 No 81.-

+ + +

Para 2.- The second question is whether the half yearly inspections under Rule 75 Chapter XX of the Civil Auditors Manual should be maintained if Permanent Payable Orders are to be issued in all cases. The Tahasildars now hold a high position, & I do not see why their monthly examinations should not be trusted and considered sufficient. When the entire responsibility is left with the Treasury Officer whether he belongs to Taluk or Huzur, I have reason to think he will be more careful than under a double inspection. In fact a Taluk Officer has better opportunities of knowing the truth in such matters than distant Officers.-

It is indeed no small hardship to pensioners, most of whom are aged persons and in indigent circumstances to travel every six months to my Huzur Station or that of a Division Officer. Occasionally when the Collector and his subordinates move into the Taluks, they may take an opportunity of seeing them.-

(True Extract)

T. V. Morales

A/g Chief Assistant.-

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sketch here. When I was little young in the service the age of some of these, like that of the Lopoo Village pensioner, was a marvel. It ought surely to arrest Govt-Collectors' attention to the necessity of their examining them to report how many of the pensioners remain & what are their ages.

4 Febry 67. WDL

Have pencilled in Mr Sim's with order what would meet my view of the matter if deemed a proper one. Good but of course an addition will be necessary as regards the Salem Pension Fund rules.- WDL

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Post Audit
~~Book and Adjustment~~ Department.

No. 163

Fort Saint George,
Accountant General's Office,
17th August 1866.

From The ACCOUNTANT GENERAL
to the GOVERNMENT of MADRAS.

To The Chief Secretary to Government
Madras.

Sir,

Of mustering - at present the pensioners appear at Huzoor twice a year to be mustered.-

Under the orders of Government quoted against paras 73 and 75 of Civil Auditor's Manual (Chapter XX) pensioners residing in the interior are required to be mustered half yearly by an European Officer, and this has to be done at head quarters because the discriptive rolls at least of Yeomiahdars have to be kept under the Collectors lock and key. The Collector of Godavery now represents that these mustering journeys are a hardship to pensioners; that tehsildars might be trusted; or that at all events it might suffice for the pensioners to appear before the European officer when his annual tour brought him into the neighbourhood. I forward only an extract of his letter as the rest deals with other matters, and indeed the letter whereto he was replying was not intended to raise the General question at all.-

Collector of Godavery proposes to muster in interim as may suit the

The present system may be inconvenient but it is not a grievance for it is old, & presses no harder now than of old.-

There can be no doubt that pensioners, especially aged and indigent pensioners, would be thankful to be relieved from the necessity of this appearance, but their personal attendance is no greater hardship now than it was when Government first required it, nor would it ever have been demanded had it not been thought necessary for the protection of Government. Travelling has not grown more difficult in the lapse of

of years; the appearance has been demanded in past years of aged men now dead, and cannot therefore be regarded as a new grievance by those who have grown old on the pension roll. Further more these people have advantages not allowed elsewhere in the matter of drawing pensions; they can draw from the nearest taluq, subject only to appearing twice a year at the huzoor: in Upper India a pensioner can draw only at the huzoor, and though the average district there be much smaller than the average district here, some run to a very large size and in some travelling is not easy. —

The Madras system is more indulgent than that of Upper India. —

Separating the case of yeomiahdars, for whom special precautions against fraud seem to have been thought necessary, I should venture to propose that each pensioner holding a Permanent Payable Order be allowed to present himself for examination before one of the superior district officers be he Collector, Sub Collector, or deputy Collector, either in Camp or at the head quarters of the taluq; and with this view to recommend the preparation of a General descriptive pension roll for each taluq which might be lodged in the records of the taluq whereby the pretended pensioners might be checked and wherein the inspecting officer might note with his own hand the signs of advancing age; at present the original description remains for ever unchanged; it may have been accurate when a man was forty "cats "eyes" and "a black beard," though it would be impossible therefrom twenty years later to identify the blind old man of sixty with a scanty grey beard: yet of course no intermediate changes could be made in a document of the nature of a pension Certificate. I could not however recommend that mustering be dispensed with altogether, and that Tehsildars be left unchecked, for the district Sherishtadar on the old

Recommends that mustering be continued but be done by range Officer who should have register of marks and should keep it corrected upto date. —

old System was a more important officer than the Tehsildar is now; yet Government stipulated that the mustering should be by an European subordinate: besides I consider a further and rarer check desirable; the tehsildar should compare marks before ordering payment month by month and the claimant should be further examined at intervals by an independent officer who may also by his notes keep the office descriptive roll up to date. Touching Yeomiahdars I have said nothing; Government had doubtless good reasons for demanding special precautions at first & can therefore best judge how far it is prepared to relax them. —

Fraud now suspected to be not uncommon. —

I need scarcely add that no change should under any circumstances be made which would in the least facilitate fraud, but fear that even now fraud is far from rare, especially in the case of women pensioned on the old Native Pension Fund for many of whom have far passed the ordinary limit of human life. —

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant
G. Cunningham
Accountant General

Encl. 11

No 76 dated 18 Feby 1867.

There is nothing in para 75 Ch: XX of the C. A. Manual which necessitates the mustering of pensioners only at the Collrs Hd Quarters - This duty necessary duty can and should be performed by the Collr and his Asst Collrs when they are on circuit or at their Head Quarters - as Mr Lushington has pro. tests - when and if necessary, de. scribe the 2nd in the Collectorate. his Diary can be produced at Head Quarters - when stricken in the Returns to the Collector when and where it is carefully examined. The same course to be followed in the case of Pensioners. I do arrange that

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Financial 1868 Dept

Bom. 18th Feby 1868

To

The Chief Secy to Government

Dated 17th August 1868
Rec'd 20th Do

No 163

No 294

Brings to notice representations made by the Collectors of Godavary respecting the mustering of pensioners and suggesting how this may be done effectually without inconvenience

Part of the forms

Wish an Order

21-7-68

Would doubtful as to the propriety of sending out copies of the "Pensioners Rolls".

Can a Permanent Payable Order be got for inspection - Can Collrs abroad act in the present mode of dealing with Pensioners of Funds.

Duty referring to the remark of the Accts Genl in his last para: it occurs how that it will become the interests of Govt to make general inspection of or enquiry into the conditions & wisdom of the late Pension Fund Nature be at once directed.

25 Augt

See separate paper

4. 2. 67

27 Augt

37-38