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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 173 Fin. Press Mis.

26-23.

Dated 24-2 18 Feb.

File

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
20th April 1869. 1870.

No. 20. Read the following letter from Mr. G. A. SCHWENKE, late Superintendent, Madras Mint, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 9th February 1870.

I beg to enclose, for submission to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, a memorial, praying for the grant of a pension in lieu of the gratuity lately disbursed to me, and humbly request that it may be forwarded by the earliest opportunity.

To

HIS GRACE THE DUKE of ARGYLL,

Secretary of State for India, London.

The humble memorial of G. A. SCHWENKE, late Superintendent of the Milling, Cleaning, and Stamping Departments of the Madras Mint.

SHOWETH,

That your Grace's memorialist was admitted as an Artificer on the establishment of the Madras Mint on the 1st August 1841, and after being promoted to the several grades during a continuous service of nearly twenty-eight years was thrown out of employ in consequence of the abolition of the Mint on the 31st of May 1869.

2. That, under date the 25th June 1869, your memorialist was recommended by Colonel Carpendale, the late Mint Master, to a pension of Rupees 70 per mensem, being a moiety of his average salary for the last five years of service, and in support of that recommendation Colonel Carpendale stated that your memorialist "was a very respectable man, who had always discharged his duties most efficiently."

3 That, notwithstanding this recommendation, the Madras Government decided in December last that your memorialist's service of upwards of 14 years previous to his appointment as Superintendent of Artificers Department could not be reckoned towards a pension, and consequently that he was only eligible to gratuity equal to a year's salary for a service of thirteen years.

4. That your memorialist believes that, in arriving at this decision, the Madras Government had in view the provisions of an order of the Government of India issued about the middle of last year, according to which it was understood that Mint Artificers were not eligible to pensions unless medically certified to have injured their health by the nature of their duties.

5. Your memorialist, therefore, begs respectfully to represent that (1st) the order of the Government of India above adverted to had no existence at the time the service of your memorialist was dispensed with by the Mint Master, and the recommendation made for the grant to him of a half-pay pension; and (secondly) that, even if in opposition to the practice invariably observed in such cases, a portion of your memorialist's services was considered as falling under the order of the Government of India of July 1869, yet your memorialist submits that, in regard to his own case, there are circumstances that loudly cry for an impartial decision.

6. In reference to the first point your memorialist begs to observe that it is the invariable practice in all Government Departments not to give retrospective effect to a rule in reference to a certain case when it is manifest that such action would prove prejudicial to the said case. Your memorialist was deprived of his appointment in the Mint on the 31st May 1869, and on that date not only himself but his immediate superior and all the Officers connected with the Mint were unanimous in their belief that, for a peculiarly laborious service of nearly twenty-eight years, no obstacle could have arisen to secure for your memorialist a pension equal to half of his pay. The hardship inflicted upon your memorialist, therefore, can easily be seen when it is observed that an order made known in this Presidency about two months after that date is unfortunately brought to bear upon his services, and his case disposed of consequently by a mere gratuity.

7. As regards the second point adverted to above, your memorialist submits that, even if it be considered expedient that cases apparently similar to his should fall under the restriction imposed by the Supreme Government in their order of July 1869, the peculiar nature of his duties during

the period struck off as ineligible to pension are sufficient grounds for exempting him from the operation of that order. Five years previous to his promotion as Head of the Carpenter's establishment, he was employed as a "Spring Plate Maker," and during this period he had to perform very arduous task in connexion with the Coinage and Stamp Department of the Mint. True it is, that from 1846 to 1856 he remained with the Carpenters' Department; but it is but just to remember that during this period he was the Head of that Department, which even at that time consisted of a large number of Artificers, and not a mere workman. As the Head he was solely responsible to the Mint Master for the efficient execution of the several description of work turned out in that department, and this too at a time when the Mint, independent of its own legitimate work, used largely to undertake the various kinds of work relating to other departments of Government, and frequently of private Firms.

8. The Mint Master of that period as well as all the subsequent Mint Masters fully appreciated the responsibility, the hardships, and the anxiety of mind which attended the control and supervision of a large department, and had your memorialist been styled then a Superintendent, instead of the head of Carpenters' establishment, there perhaps would have existed no obstacle to the disputed service being added to the recognised period, and the whole calculated towards a pension. It was in acknowledgment of such service that Colonel Frederick Cotton in his Report on the Mint Operations for 1856, 1857, and 1858, borne testimony to the merits of your memorialist in the terms copied in the margin.

Extract from a Memorandum on the Operations of the Madras Mint in the years 1856, 1857, *and* 1858, *by Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Cotton, dated Ootacamund, 2nd February* 1859.

Mr. G. A. Schwenke, the Superintendent of the Foundry, has also charge of the Carpenters, and I have lately added to his establishment a great portion of the Smiths who have been removed from the Mint to the Foundry yard. Mr. Schwenke is another of those faithful and zealous men for which the Mint is so remarkable, devoting himself heart and soul to his work, and taking the greatest pride in it. I beg strongly to recommend that Mr. G. A. Schwenke's appointment may be made that of a first-class Superintendent, which it undoubtedly ought to be, as he has a still more important charge than his younger brother before mentioned.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) P. F. BELLEW,
Assay Master,
in charge of Bullion Depot.

24*th January* 1870.

9. All the Officers who had held the Mastership of the Mint in succession to Colonel Cotton have amply testified to the zeal and intelligence with which your memorialist had discharged his duties, and it is, therefore, a sad matter for consideration that, in the face of all such favourable testimonies, your memorialist should, in his advanced age, be suddenly thrown out of employment, and deprived of the pensionary provision which himself and his employers so surely depended upon.

10. It is needless that your Grace's time should be taken up by a detailed account of all the measures your memorialist had adopted in order to work the departments under his control in an economical scale; but there is one circumstance which it is necessary to bring prominently to your Grace's notice. In January 1861, when Colonel C. A. Orr, the then Mint Master, was adopting various measures of economy in regard to Mint expenditure, it was your memorialist who introduced the use of iron tubes for annealing copper blanks in lieu of copper tubes which were in use from the formation of the Mint up to that period. The saving effected by the introduction of iron tubes could be easily imagined when it is remembered that the cost of twenty-six copper tubes (the average number required in a month) amounted to Rupees 127-5-4, while the same number of iron tubes cost only Rupees 22-15-6. Colonel Orr, who clearly perceived the advantage to Government of the measure devised by your memorialist, ordered its immediate introduction, and the practice continued up to the abolition of the Mint. About the same time your memorialist also effected a considerable saving in the cost of working the Coinage Presses. It was usual up to the period in question to allow twelve men at at eight rupees each to each Press employed in stamping Rupees; eight men at the same rate of pay to the Press used for coining half-anna pieces; and two men for each of the single Pie Presses. But the measures introduced by your memorialist, after contending stoutly against the opposition raised by the men, led eventually to each of the Rupee Press being worked by ten men, the half-anna Press by six men, and the Pie Press by two boys on six rupees, instead of two men on eight rupees each.

11. It is also necessary to observe that, while your memorialist has been denied a pension, several of the Mint servants who had received from him daily instruction in the performance of their work, are at the present moment in the enjoyment of pensions suitable to the grade they held in the Mint.

12. It is respectfully submitted, in conclusion, that the Government of India could never have contemplated that appointments, with duties of the nature described above, should be subject to an order intended specially for Mint Artificers, and your memorialist, therefore, fervently prays that, taking all the circumstances under your Grace's humane consideration, and keeping in view that your memorialist is now in an advanced age, it will please your Grace to direct the issue to your memorialist of a half-pay pension in lieu of the gratuity already disbursed to him, and for which act of charity your memorialist begs again to assure that he will ever pray.

MADRAS, *9th February* 1870. (Signed) G. A. SCHWENKE.

No. 21. ORDER THEREON, 20th April 1870, No. 173.

Resolved that the foregoing memorial be transmitted to the Government of India in the usual course, with the recommendation of this Government that a one-third pension be granted to Mr. G. A. Schwenke as a special case.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

No. 22. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, dated Fort Saint George, 20th April 1870, No. 174.

I am directed to forward the accompanying memorial addressed to the Secretary of State for India by Mr. G. A. Schwenke, late Superintendent in the Mint, in which he prays that a pension may be granted to him in lieu of the gratuity assigned to him by this Government.

2. Mr. Schwenke's service is given in the margin. When disposing of his claim this Government was obliged to reject his service as Artificer, amounting to fourteen years, nine months, and one day, as having been rendered partly on the contingent establishment, and partly in occupations which, under the existing orders as to the eligibility of Mint Artificers to pension, confer no claims under the new rules. A gratuity of twelve months' pay was, therefore, granted to Mr. Schwenke for his service as Superintendent.

	Salaries. Rs.	Period. Y.	M.	D.
Artificer	35	3	10	0
Head Turner (Contingent)	50	0	7	22
Head Carpenter	50	10	3	9
		14	9	1
Superintendent	80	3	8	18
Do.	100	0	6	29
Do.	140	8	9	14
Total...		27	10	2

Despatch of Secy. of State, 26th Jan. 1869, No. 47.
G. I. Resn., 30th July 1869, No. 2324, (Fin.)
M. G. O., 13th Dec. 1869, No. 438, Pen. Dept., (copy enclosed.)

3. The case of Mr. Schwenke is, however, in the opinion of this Government, entitled to special consideration. Mr. Schwenke's whole service under Government is nearly twenty-eight years, during which he is reported to have discharged his duty most efficiently; he drew as an Artificer during the rejected periods pay far higher than the amount which, if he were a petty clerk, would have conferred on him a right to pension; he was for nine years in charge of the Stamping and Laminating rooms, important departments in the Mint, and is now sixty years of age.

4. His Excellency in Council would regret that an old servant of this kind, who has filled with credit important posts, should be cast adrift with a mere gratuity; and, therefore, recommends that, as a special case, the deficiency of one year and eleven months in his service strictly reckoning for pension may be overlooked, and a one-third pension, or Rupees 46-8-0 per mensem, may be granted to Mr. Schwenke.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. Wright.

1870.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

From

The Chief Secretary to Government,

West India Colonies,

To

The Secretary to the Govt. of India,

Financial Department.

Dated 20th April 1870.

Read ——

No. 171

of 1870 Financial Department.

APRIL.

Nos. 20—22.

Transmitting a Memorial addressed to the Secretary of State by Mr. G. A. Schwenke, late Superintendent in the Mint, praying that a pension may be granted in lieu of the gratuity assigned to him by this Government, and recommending that a one-third pension be granted to Mr. Schwenke.

Financial Department.

No.

To

The Secretary to the Government
of India.

Financial Department.

Sir,

I am directed to forward for transcription to the Secretary of State for India, the accompanying Memorial from Mr. G. A. Schwenke, late Superintendent of the Mint, praying that the Order of the Govt. of Madras, granting him a gratuity on the abolition of the Mint, and forgoing for pension.

2. Mr. Schwenke served for 27 years, 10 months and 3 days, and of this period the last 15 years 1 month and

and 2 days was admitted as reckoning for gratuity under the new Rules. The Barber service rejected by the Govt. is detailed for in margin.

3. The intermediate service per the Contingent list was rejected for the reasons already referred to in connection with other cases. The Surveyor of Ships assistant service was rejected, first because it appeared to the Govt. that the despatch of the Secretary of State dated 26th January 1869, ought to apply only to persons who ~~at that time were entitled~~ might retire, as might artificers, after its promulgation, and ought not to have retrospective effect with reference to service or salaries which terminated long ago; and secondly, because, even supposing the despatch so

	Salary	Period
Kite Maker	35	3-10-0
Head Farrier (entitled)	50	1-7-22
Head Carpenter	50	10-3-0
		14-7-1

question to be held applicable to such service, the service in this case is not within the declaration of the Govt. of India (30th July 1869, No. 2324 Financial) as to the scope of the despatch referred to.

4. The interpretation put by this Govt. upon the words of the Order of the Govt. of India, viz. "engaged in service of a nature to affect his health prejudicially" was that the presumption ~~of the individual claimant~~ must have been ordinarily of a normal character and prejudicial to health, and not that as a matter of fact the health of the individual claimant must have been thereby seriously affected. Accordingly a Committee of medical officers, presiding the 4th day March, was

was nominated to classify
said artificers occupations with
reference to these considerations;
and this Government in dispo-
sing of the claims arising out
of the abolition of the Mint,
have been guided by the list
drawn up by the Committee,
a copy of which is enclosed.
It will be seen that neither
of Mr Schwendler's occupations
is included in the list.

Ind 3 Jany 20

Department.

No.

To

The Secretary to the
Government of

Department

Dated 18 .

With reg Memorial &
Pen. Petn 488

Financial Department.

No. 174.

To

The Secretary to the Government
of India.

Financial Department.

Sir,

I am directed to forward ~~for transmission to the Secretary of State for India~~, the accompanying ~~Memorial~~ addressed to the Secretary of State for India by Schwentke late Surgeon in the Bhutan service and to say that a pension may be granted to him in lieu of the gratuity assigned to him by this Govt.

2. Mr. Schwentke's service is given in the margin. When disposing of his claim this Govt. was obliged to reject his service as Asstt. Surgeon amounting to 14 years 9 months and 1 day, as having been

	Salaries Rs.		Period Y. M. D.
Asst. Surgeon	35	—	3-10--
Head Nurse (Contingent)	50	—	" 7-22
Head Carpenter	50	—	10-3-9
			14-9-1
Superintendent	80	—	3-8-18
— do —	100	—	" 6-29
— do —	140	—	8-9-14
			27-10-2

£ 19/8-

been rendered partly on
the Contingent Establish-
ment and partly in
occupations which, under
the existing Orders as to the
eligibility of Joint Office[illegible]
to pension, confer no claims
under the new rules. A
gratuity of 12 months'
pay was therefore granted
to Mr. Schwenke for his
service as Superintendent
of M. Schwenke is however
3. The case in the
opinion of this Govt is entitled to special consideration.
~~abandoned~~ Mr. Schwenke's
whole service under Govt
is nearly 28 years during
which he is reported to
have discharged his duty
most efficiently; he drew
as an Artificer during
the rejected period pay
far higher than the amount
which, if he were a
petty clerk, would have
conferred on him a
right

Despatch of Secy of State.
326 Jan.y 7/69 No. 47.
L.L. Resolution 30 Jan.y 2/69 No. 2324
Financial
No. 6 O. 13 Dec.r 8/69 No. 438.
Audit Dept. (Copy enclosed)

right to pension; he was
for nine years in charge
of the stamping and la-
minating rooms, an
important department
in the Mint, and is now
60 years of age.
4. His Excellency
in Council would regret
that an old servant of
this kind who has filled
with credit an important
post, should be cast
adrift with a mere
gratuity; and therefore
recommends that, as a
special case, the deficiency
of 1 year 4 11 months in his
service strictly reckoning
for pension may be
overlooked, and a one
third pension or Rs. 66-8-0
per annum may be
granted to Mr. Schwenke.

H.E.

Fort St. George
20 April 70

18 . Department.

No.

To

The Secretary to the

Government of

Department

Dated 18 .

1776

Financial

Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury

To the Secretary of the Treasury

Financial

Date April 20 1776

Nos. 20-22

Transmitting a memorial addressed to the Secy. of State by Mr. G. A. Schwerdtfeger late Lieut. in the Prussian, praying that a pension may be granted in lieu of the gratuity assigned to him by this Govt. & recommending that a one third pension be granted to Mr. Schwerdtfeger.