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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Finance Dept. DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No 173 Press Mis.

2023

Dated 24-10 1923.

6/6

No. 24

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

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.

24th 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.

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

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.

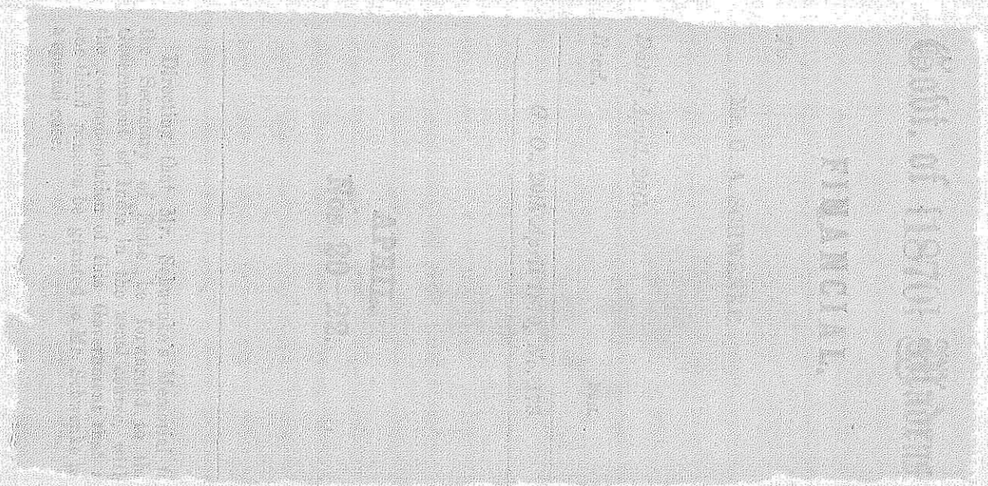
Resolved that the foregoing memorial be transmitted to the Government of India in the usual course, with the recommendation of this Government that a one-third pension be granted to Mr. G. A. Schwenke as a special case.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To Mr. G. A. Schwenke.

Exd. J. Wright.



No.

The Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St George

Sir,

I beg to enclose for submission to the Right Honble the Secretary of State for India a Memorial, praying for the grant of a pension in lieu of the gratuity lately assigned to me and have the honor to request that it may be forwarded by the earliest opportunity.

Madras
9 February 1870

I have the honor Sir,
Your most obedient Servant
P. A. Schwartz

Finl. 1870 Dept

From

Mr. G. A. Schwenke

Late Supt. Madras Mint

Recd. 4 Feb

No 59

Forwards a Memorial to Home Govt. praying for the grant to him of a half pay pension in lieu of the gratuity disbursed to him

Without order

No. 173. 20 April/70

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

Mr. G. A. Schwenke [illegible] 22/4

20 - 22

Court of (1870) Madeus.

Friend

Wm. F. A. Schwenke.

Dated April 20

Dated

Dec.

20 April 1870 No. 73.

Nos. 20. 22

Pet. State ne dismissed
Remain in possession
of Wm. Schwenke as
a special case.

Priority State ex rel Schwenke
against Dale Clerk of
Dade, the Commissioners of
the Pet. of Dade in the
usual Course, with the
recommendation of the
Court