M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1499	Press ~~His.~~
110-111 Dated	15-10-~~19~~1864	

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
15th October 1864.

No. 110. Read the following letter from L. C. INNES, Esq., Civil and Session Judge of Ootacamund; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 24th September 1864, No. 187.

I have the honor herewith to submit, for the favorable consideration of his Excellency the Governor in Council, a petition presented by the officers of this Court for an increase of their salaries.

2. The grounds upon which the petitioners make their request are three-fold—

1*st*.—That the salaries of judicial ministerial officers of the Civil and Sessions Courts throughout the Presidency are below what officers of the same grade in the Revenue Department, and with lighter work than that entailed on judicial ministerial officers, are permitted to draw.

2*nd*.—That the expenses on the Hills are far greater than they are in theplains.

3*rd*.—That the establishment of the Court being small several of the officers have double functions assigned to them.

3. The first ground is one which the Government will not probably think of weight, except in connection with the question of the propriety of raising the salaries of ministerial officers of the Civil and Sessions Courts throughout the Presidency. And as I am not aware that this question is at present before the Government, though it is one which I have reason to think will ere long be pressed upon their attention, I will pass on to the second ground.

4. That living on the Hills is far more expensive than in the plains is a fact too well known to require that I should enlarge upon it. It may be true that in some Districts (as Bellary and Kurnool) some of the principal necessaries of life are nearly, if not quite, as dear as at Ootacamund, but wages and house-rent are nowhere else, I believe, so high, and the lower the salary of the officer, the more severely are these excessive but necessary charges felt.

5. The higher ministerial officers of a Court have to maintain a certain appearance of respectability, which entails a corresponding increase of expenditure over that which is of necessity made to suffice for the lower grades of officers; and while, on the one hand, it is not desirable that from narrow means they should be driven on the Hills to forego such expenditure, and with it a great part of the estimation and respect attaching to their offices; on the other, extravagance beyond their means, to which they might be tempted, would be much to be deprecated, as it is invariably in such cases accompanied by a course of misconduct too well known to require that I should specially refer to it.

6. In regard to the third ground I would observe, that there are only two Writers attached to the Court, of whom the Serishtadar, who is also Head Writer, is one. The Nazir is also Civil and Criminal Record-keeper, functions which, in other Courts, are performed by three officers; and there are only four Goomastahs; and although the work of the Judge is exceedingly light, that of the ministerial officers is not equally so.

7. As observed by the petitioners, the variety of functions performed by the Court entails a corresponding variety of procedure. Great care is required in changing from one to another function, and thus the officers are kept at work longer than they would be in an ordinary Court in the plains, in which there was the same amount of work to be performed.

8. I would urge besides that the rigour of this climate to the Native constitution renders it a matter of extreme difficulty to procure respectable and intelligent officers; and when the extent is considered to which the rule, prohibiting the employment of unpassed Uncovenanted Officers, narrows the field of selection, it will be seen that, under the present scale of remuneration, great difficulty will be experienced in filling up the places of officers in this Court, as they are vacated, by other than inferior men; while the effect of an inferior establishment must be to take up the time of the Judge in perpetually teaching and inculcating rules in vain.

9. I should be disposed to recommend that the salaries of all the officers, Daloyets, and Peons of the Court be increased at least 25 per cent, and that the Massalji, who is also sweeper, be paid 6 Rupees, equal to the allowance of the Massalji of the Joint Magistrate's office, as on the present pay none but boys will engage themselves for this duty.

To

L. C. INNES, Esq.,

Civil and Session Judge of Ootacamund.

Most Honored Sir,

We, the undersigned, most respectfully beg to bring to your kind notice our present condition on the Neilgherry Hills.

1. The price of the articles of food sold on the Hills is much dearer than that in the low country. For instance: at Madras and in other places in the plains, raw rice is sold at the rate of 8, 9 and 10 Madras measures per Rupee, according to its quality; but here it is sold at the rate of 3½ and 4 seers, which, when measured by Madras measure, becomes 3 or 3½, and other articles are proportionately dear; and, also, we cannot get here good confidential servants, unless we pay them 10 or 12 Rupees per mensem, whereas in the low country we can get a servant on two or three Rupees per mensem. In like manner, for a comfortable house here we have to pay not less than 10 or 15 Rupees instead of 2 or 3 Rupees as in the plains. Hence the Government servants on the Hills become plunged in debt, which their friends in the low country, who get equal or even less pay are not liable to. Moreover, we have to buy warm clothes, which are more expensive than the ordinary ones, and is an expense not necessary to be incurred in the plains.

2. Mr. Pelly's scale has been introduced in the Revenue Department, by which the servants in that Department get more pay and do far less work than those in the Judicial Department, who, less in number, have to work day and night. For example: the Head Vernacular Clerk (in other words called Head Jevabnevis), who draws 60 Rupees per month, has little to do compared with the Jevabnevis in Civil and Session Courts. When taken in one view, if the whole work of the establishment of the Revenue Department be compared with that of the Judicial Department, the latter has much more to do with its few servants on small salaries than the former with its greater number of servants on large salaries.

3. Lately a new scale was introduced in the District Moonsiffs' Courts, by which the Moonsiffs had their salaries raised from Rupees 100 to 200, 250 and 300 Rupees, and so the Goomastahs and other servants; whereas no such increase has been introduced into the higher Courts. In the Civil Courts, in the low country, there are Serishtadars with five Goomastahs, a Shroff, and a Civil Record-keeper, Head Writer, with four Assistant Writers, and one Translator, and a Criminal Jevabnevis with Criminal Record-keeper; whereas in this Court one man has to look after the duty of two offices, *i. e.*, the Serishtadar has to do Head Writer's work in addition to his own, the Nazir has to look after the duties of Civil and Criminal Record-keepers. In like manner, the Head Goomastah has to perform the duties of Criminal Jevabnevis and Translator. There is also only one Writer who has to perform the whole of the English work without any assistance.

4. Though the jurisdiction of this Court is very limited, yet the servants have much work, in consequence of the Judge being invested with a variety of powers, *i. e.*, the power of Civil and Sessions Judge, Sub-Judge, Small Cause Court Judge, and District Moonsiff, entailing a corresponding variety in procedure and in the books, registers, and forms of process which have to be kept and prepared in the Court by the Court servants.

5. Under these circumstances, we, the servants of this Court, have much more ground on which to apply for an increase of our pay than the Government servants in the low country have.

6. In conclusion, we beg you will submit this humble request to the favorable consideration of Government, with such recommendation as to the increase of our pay and establishment as you may deem proper.

(Signed) V. NARAYANA RAO,
Head Writer and Serishtadar.
and 15 others.

Ootacamund,
31st August 1864.

No. 111. Order thereon, 15th October 1861, No. 1499.

Before passing orders on the application submitted with the foregoing letter, the Governor in Council requests that the Collector of Coimbatore will furnish a Comparative Statement, showing the relative cost of the several necessaries of life, both for Europeans and Natives, on the Neilgherry Hills, and at the town of Coimbatore.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Judicial 1864 Sept.

No. 1199.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Dated 15th Oct. 1864.

Requesting the Collector of Coimbatore to furnish a Comparative Statement showing the relative cost of the several necessaries of life, both for Europeans & Natives on the Sanitary Hills & at the Towns of Coimbatore

English work without any assistants.

4. Though the jurisdiction of this Court is very limited yet the Servants have much work in consequence of the Judge being invested with a variety of powers i.e. the power of Civil and Sessions Judge, Sub Judge, Small Cause Court Judge, and District Moonsiff entailing a corresponding variety in procedure and in the books, registers and forms of process which have to be kept and prepared in the Court by the Court Servants.

5. Under these circumstances we, the Servants of this Court, have much more ground on which to apply for an increase of our pay than that the Government Servants in the low country have.

6 In conclusion we beg you will submit this humble request

Comparative Statement shewing the Establishment of the Civil and Sessions Court of Coimbatore and that of Ootacamund with the pay of each officer.

Number in Establishment	Establishment of the Civil & Sessions Court of Ootacamund	Salary per month	Number in Establishment	Establishment of the Civil and Sessions Court of Coimbatore	Salary per month
			1	Serishtadar	100 . .
1.	Serishtadar and Head Writer	100 . .	2	Head Writer	70 . .
2	Nazir, Civil & Criml. Recordkeeper	50 . .	3	Nazir	45 . .
			4	Civil Recordkeeper	35 . .
			5	Criminal Recordkeeper	30 . .
			6	Translator Fouzdari	50 . .
3.	2d. English Writer	35 . .	7	2d. English Writer	35 . .
			8	3d. do	21 . .
			9	4th. do	17 8 .
			10	5th. do	14 . .
4	Head Gumastah doing duty also as Criminal Jevabnavis	28 . .	11	Head Gumastah	21 . .
			12	Criminal Jevabnavis	28 . .
5.	2d. Gumastah	17 8 .	13	2d. Gumastah	15 . .
6	3d. do	14 . .	14	3d. do	12 . .
7	4th. do	14 . .	15	4th. do	10 8 .
			16	5th. do	10 . .
8.	Shroff	10 . .	17	Shroff	10 . .
9.	Government Vakil	15 . .	18	Govt. Vakil	21 . .
10.	Mocchi	8 . .	19	Mocchi	7 . .
			20	Ructakan or Ink maker	3 8 .
			21	Duffadar	10 8 .
			22	1st Messenger	7 . .
11	1st. Peiget	8 . .	23	2d. do	6 . .
12	2d. do	6 . .	24	3d. do	6 . .
13	1st. Peon	7 . .	25	4th. do	6 . .
14	2d. do	7 . .			
15	3d. do	7 . .			
16	4th do	7 . .			
	[illegible]	5 . .	26	Mashalchi	4 . .
				Sweeper	3 . .
			27		

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15th October 1864 No. 1499

Before passing orders on the applic-
-ation submitted with the forgoing letter
the Governor in Council requests that
the Collector of Coimbatore will furnish
a comparative statement shewing the re-
-lative cost of the several necessaries of life
both for Europeans and Natives on the
Neilgherry Hills and at the town of
Coimbatore.

To the Collector of Coimbatore dated 21/10

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