

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	730	Press
		~~Mis.~~
³⁶⁹⁻³⁸⁰ Dated	20-3-	19 1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following :—

No. 349. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th October 1867,
No. 6,805.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Kurnool, to the Secretary to the
Board of Revenue, dated 24th September 1867, No. 284.

1. I have the honor to inform you that I have found it necessary to dismiss from the service my Head English Writer Mr. Blake. There are circumstances of such extreme suspicion against him, that I am convinced he is unfit to continue in the public service, though I find it impossible to procure evidence to support a judicial inquiry. The reasons for suspicion have arisen as follows :—

2. The Deputy Collector Comarasawmy reported to me on the 12th June that a pensioner on $2\frac{1}{2}$ Rupees monthly salary, named Baday Sahib, had obtained his pension on false pretences. I immediately put Baday Sahib on his trial for cheating, and convicted him under Section 417 of the Penal Code, and sentenced him to one year's simple (as he was an old man) imprisonment. Against this decision Baday Sahib instituted a regular appeal, which has been dismissed by the Session Court, and my decision has been confirmed.

3. The trial elicited the fact that Baday Sahib was dismissed from the service in 1849 by Mr. Phillips, the agent, and that he obtained his pension on the pretence that he had lost his appointment on the introduction of Mofassil Police in 1860, and that up to that time he was a Huzoor Daloyet. This bare-faced act could not have taken place without the connivance of the Cutcherry officials then in the service, as I reported at once to Government, when recommending Baday Sahib's pension should be cancelled, and as the Session Judge aptly words it in his Proceedings on the Appeal—"The Huzoor officials in the Office must, of course, have been cognizant of the deception (and further investigation would doubtless indicate who connived at and furthered it); but this does not relieve the prisoner from liability for his own share in it."

4. I purposely deferred taking any further steps in the matter till after the Appeal was decided.

5. I called then on Mr. Blake, who, till this year, has had very great influence in the district, as I can show below, for his account of the matter. He says, on his orders the Register was made out by Kondur Senkaraya, then second English Writer, and now the English Record-keeper; that though he (Mr. Blake) had been in the Office for eight years at the time, that he did not know all the Huzoor Daloyets by sight, because there were some fifty men under the old arrangements, and all he did was to fill up Column 3 regarding identification, and that he had never seen Baday Sahib before.

6. I then took a statement from Kondur Senkaraya. He had been in the Office for twenty-seven years, and says he filled up the Register from what Baday Sahib stated, that no other inquiry into accounts or pay abstracts was made, and that he did not know whether Baday Sahib had been a Huzoor Peon or not.

7. During Baday Sahib's trial, I examined the Treasurer Kadiu Krishna-murti Row, who has been, with the exception of two years, in the Cumbum talook, in the Head Office, since the assumption in 1859; he says he does not know whether Baday Sahib was in the service or not on the introduction of the new Police. I

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showed him the old Baravard (Pay Abstract) which he says shows that Baday Sahib was dismissed in 1849.

8. The Duffadar Sawat Sing also entered the service in 1839, and has served continuously ever since in the Huzaor; says, Baday Sahib left the service in Mr. Phillips' time, and was succeeded by Nassurudin, his son. He did not report this because he did not know why a pension was given to Baday Sahib.

9. As Mr. Blake's influence has been so great hitherto, I look on all the others concerned in this grossly culpable case of reticence, as merely his creatures who did not dare say a word on the subject which might implicate him.

10. When I entered the district, as I said before, Mr. Blake was supreme, and apparently exercised a sort of right of nomination to all appointments, which I found fault with, and I told him it was not his business, and that he must in future confine himself to his own office and the duties of it, and to shew him he was not superior even in that, I made an appointment without consulting him in any way. Mr. Blake felt his influence so much affected, that he told me he had lost his power, and was as a babe in the office. Another suspicious fact regarding Mr. Blake is the amount of money he seems to have at his command. Just prior to my arrival in the district, he built a house; since my arrival he has just completed the repairs, almost entire erection, I might say, of another house, and he has also applied for land to build two other houses.

11. I am aware Mr. Blake says the last house is Mrs. McKenzie's, but Mr. Blake is separated from his own wife, and Mrs. McKenzie is living with him, so the probability is that the money is Mr. Blake's. To his own wife he sends 50 Rupees monthly, which leaves him Rupees 100 to spend monthly. His pay was only increased to Rupees 150 in 1865, previously to which it was only Rupees 100. How he has, therefore, the means to carry on his building operations, is unaccountable.

12. I regret to add I have had lists of a great many (thirty or forty) other pensioners who have received pensions on false pretences given in to me, regarding which I am making inquiries; and, as far as I have proceeded, there is not a particle of doubt concerning these allegations. For, the statements of all the pensioners I have taken down are directly contrary to the statements filled in, in the Pension Registers.

13. There is yet another circumstance regarding which there is cause for suspicion. Several pensioners and receivers of compassionate allowances had got re-employment in the service, and on the Deputy Collector in charge of Treasury, Comarasawmy, applying for information regarding these payments, one of my predecessors replied by docket No. 413, dated 17th September 1866, that there was no objection to discharged Peons enjoying compassionate allowance seeking other employment, and on the strength of this several pensioners were employed as Peons and received both pensions and full pay of their appointments.

14. This of itself shows connivance on the part of some one, and the suspicion can fall on no one but Mr. Blake, the Head English Writer, who countersigned the docket, and did not bring the Board's Standing Order, No. 408, on the subject, to the Collector's notice.

15. As this was diametrically opposed to the Board's Standing Circular, No. 408, directing that pensions of servants of Government should merge in the

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salary of the office in the event of re-employment, I have directed the Treasury Deputy not to make the double payments, and have cancelled my predecessor's order.

16. The Board are aware that a great deal of trust has to be placed on the English Head Writer, and that Mr. Pelly in his letter, dated November 28th, 1865, when recommending the increased pay of Rupees 150, said "Collectors must be very dependent on this officer," &c., &c., "that his position is one of much importance." Mr. Blake can no longer enjoy my confidence to the extent which is necessary for an officer of so high a position. For if he has not in each of these pension cases received bribes, he has without a particle of inquiry which, the Collector must have supposed, he instituted, either in the records or old pay abstracts, had all the Registers filled up, and many falsely shewing a gross disregard of the interests of Government.

17. I forward, in original, Urzi from Heraman Sing, referred to Mr. Blake by Mr. Minchin, which shews an inquiry The handwriting in black ink is Senkaraya's. was ordered. Mr. Blake made no inquiry, but simply had entered on the back the man's service (which has been counted) and age, as stated by the applicant. On this Mr. Minchin supposing an inquiry had been made, ordered the name of the man to be entered with a special remark. This also shews how much Mr. Blake has been trusted.

18. The English Record-keeper, then second English Writer, Kondur Senkaraya, who wrote out all the Registers, and according to his own explanation without any inquiry, I intend to reduce to a less paid appointment.

19. The Duffadar Sawat Sing I have dismissed, because, as he says in the particular case of Baday Sahib, the Hoozoor Peon dismissed in 1849, and who got a pension as having lost his service on the introduction of the new Police 1860—"He (Baday Sahib) left the service in the time of Mr. Phillips, and his appointment was given to Nassurudin. I have done service ever since the zulf (1839, assumption of the estate by the East India Company). I do not know why he (Baday Sahib) gets pension, and I did not therefore report this before." Mr. Minchin relied so much on this Duffadar's word, that in his letter to Government, No. 27, dated 7th July 1865, he says "these applicants for pension statements were checked not only by their appearance which is often delusive, but by the personal knowledge of most of them held by Sawat Sing, the Duffadar of the Collector's Daloyets, who was himself thirty-five years in the Nawab's service."

20. I regret that I cannot acquit Comarasawmy, Treasury Deputy Collector, of blame in the matter of these pensions. For when the Tahsildar of Koilgutta reported to him that a pension had been sanctioned for a Peon Venkata in his taluk, who had only been in service for six years, Comarasawmy on the day following the receipt of this report paid that Peon the whole amount of the back pension. Considering, however, Comarasawmy's long service, and latterly his failing health, which so affected his head, that, when he last left on sick leave, he could hardly add up a string of a dozen numbers correctly, I think he should be ordered to take his pension, as he promised me he would do. He is decidedly unfit to hold the appointment of Deputy Collector any longer.

21. The Cash-keeper, who has been in the service since 1839, is much to blame, for he must have known that some of these pensions had been improperly

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obtained, and yet, without any report, (till after inquiry had commenced,) he pays the pensions unhesitatingly; but as he had nothing to do in the inquiry regarding the pensions, I do not think it necessary to punish him further than with a severe reprimand.

22. I trust the Board will sanction the steps I have taken in this most disagreeable matter.

As the Government, in Order, No. —, dated —, requested me to inform them of the steps I have taken in this matter, I shall feel obliged if the Board will forward a copy of this letter to the Chief Secretary.

Enclosure No. 1.—Petition.

1. The Board are of opinion that Mr. Chase has acted promptly and judiciously in unravelling the pension frauds to which this letter refers.

2. As far as the Board can judge from the information before them, the Acting Collector had no choice but to dismiss Mr. Blake and Sawat Sing. They doubt whether reduction is a sufficient punishment for Sankaraya.

3. With regard to the Deputy Collector Comarasawmy Mondelly, the Board observe that he was the first to give the Collector information with respect to these frauds, and that the circumstance referred to in paragraph 20 is not insusceptible of explanation.

4. The Collector will report the result of his further inquiries with regard to pensions supposed to have been procured on false pretences.

5. These Proceedings will be communicated to Government, with reference to their Order (number and date unknown), desiring the Collector to report the result of the steps taken by him in the case of Baday Sahib.

No. 350. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th February 1868,
No. 1,177.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Karnool, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated on Circuit at Dyanakonda, 14th January 1868,
No. 20.

1. With reference to Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th October 1867, No. 6,805, paragraph 4, I have the honor to forward a statement showing a list of thirty-one Peons, who have received pensions to which they are not entitled.

2. Baday Sahib's pension has previously been cancelled by Government; he is now undergoing his sentence in the Jail at Karnool.

3. No. 18, Raddigadu, I also sentenced for cheating under Section 417 of the Indian Penal Code, to six months' rigorous imprisonment. The date of his sentence was 21st October 1867; he has not appealed.

4. I consider that if I tried all the other men on the list, a similar verdict might be arrived at; but as the District Jail is too full already, and as no advantage could possibly be obtained by sentencing these worn out old men to confinement, I have deemed it sufficient to stop their pensions, and directed the Deputy Collector in charge of the Treasury to discontinue payments till further orders.

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5. The conditions which entitled to pension were as follows: thirty years' continuous service under Government, or twenty-one years' continuous service under Government and former service under the Nawab's Government, and loss of appointment caused by the introduction of the new Police.

6. The statement will shew that these conditions have not been complied with in any one single case on the list.

	Years.	Months.	Days.
No. 1 served only	19	3	0
and did not lose his appointment on the introduction of the new Police.			
No. 2 served only	13	9	26
and did not lose his appointment on the introduction of the new Police.			
No. 3 served	15	4	11
and was dismissed in 1859.			
No. 4 served	19	3	0
and did not lose his appointment on the introduction of the new Police.			
No. 5 only served for	9	7	25
„ 6 only served for	4	4	2
„ 7 only served for	7	1	3
„ 8 only served for	13	1	6
„ 9 served for	17	11	11
and did not lose his appointment on the introduction of the new Police.			
No. 10 served only for	5	9	17
and was dismissed by Collector by Order No. 38, dated April 15th, 1859.			
No. 11 only served for	2	7	6
He was dismissed in 1846 by Assistant Commissioner's Order No. 23.			
No. 12 is a gross case; he does not appear ever to have served at all.			
„ 13 is a similar case.			
„ 14 served only for	9	7	27
and was dismissed on 16th October 1856, by Agent's Order			
No. 90.			
No. 15 only served for	20	7	28
„ 16 served only for	16	0	9
„ 17 only served for	14	7	1
„ 18 Raddigadu, served only for	3	0	7
I sentenced him to six months' rigorous imprisonment.			
The appeal time has expired, and he has preferred no appeal.			
No. 19 served the Government only	24	2	2
„ 20 served the Government only	23	5	2
„ 21 served only	19	9	3

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	Years.	Months.	Days.
No. 22 served only for and his service was not continuous.	12	8	10
No. 23 served only	6	8	28
„ 24 served the Government	28	9	19
„ 25 served the Government	27	6	14
„ 26 served the Government	23	7	19
„ 27 served only and not continuously.	16	9	19
No. 28 served only	15	8	19
„ 29 served	18	6	19
„ 30 served only	8	3	8
„ 31 served only	14	5	27

7. I forward the Pay Certificates of all the pensioners except No. 26, with a request that they may be forwarded to Government, in order that these pensions may be annulled.

8. I have entered so fully on the subject of these pensions in my former letters to the Board, that I feel it useless to state anything further, than to mention that the fact of these persons receiving pensions without the least title to them shows either gross carelessness, or the receipt of bribes by the persons who filled up the Registers, and also that the care, said by Mr. Blake in his appeal against his dismissal to have been taken to inquire who were entitled or not to pension, was not bestowed.

9. The whole of the information I have obtained has been from the Baravards, and, of course, it was just as procurable before the Registers were filled as now, after the pensions have been granted.

10. There was no one in the Office, independent enough to oppose Mr. Blake. The chief person who ought to have done so was the Serishtadar Chondappa, through whom all correspondence with the Tahsildars should go. Thus the Serishtadar failed to do, and, in consequence, I do not consider him as fit to hold his appointment. He is a good old Gumbastah, of the old school, who does not know a word of English. At present he is absent on sick leave, which expires early next month, and I feel that if I have to depend on such a man as my Serishtadar, the business of the district cannot be carried on as it should. I, therefore, request the Board to authorize me to call on him to take his pension, (he has served more than twenty-two years' pension service,) or to have him reduced to some lower appointment in another district.

11. In my first letter on this disagreeable business, I expressed my opinion regarding Comarasawmy, the Treasury Deputy Collector. I do not think him fit for service. I, therefore, request he may be either directed to take his pension, or transferred to another appointment.

12. The remaining certificate I will forward as soon as I can get it from the person who now possesses it.

13. I fear there are still some few more cases requiring inquiry. Of these reports shall be forwarded as they occur.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Statement.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 to 30.—Pension Certificates.

1. In continuation of his letter, recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 18th October 1867, No. 6,805, the Collector of Kurnool reports that no less than thirty-one of the Peons on the Pension list have been proved to have gained their allowances by fraud. The Collector repeats the expression of his opinion that Deputy Collector Comarasawmy is unfit for service, and adds that Chondappa, the Serishtadar of the district, failed to do his duty in preventing these frauds, and has thereby shewn himself unfit for his appointment.

2. Mr. Chase considers it undesirable to prosecute any of the thirty-one delinquents besides the two who have been already convicted of cheating; but the Board see no reason why any of them should escape punishment, simply because their cases happened not to be the first ones discovered. Of course extreme old age or comparatively long service may be ground for leniency, but unless there are special circumstances for consideration, the Collector should consider himself bound to bring the criminals to justice.

3. With regard to the Serishtadar, the Board think it would be unjust to punish him for not pushing himself forward and interfering in a work which had been taken out of his hands, under the new system, and intrusted to others. They believe, moreover, that he was absent from the district when the Registers were prepared.

4. With regard to Comarasawmy, the Board consider that in his position as personal Assistant to the Collector, and as the Officer in charge of the Treasury by whom these payments were made, he shewed negligence and incapacity in allowing frauds so gross to pass unchallenged; but before addressing Government on the subject of requiring him to retire, they desire that the Collector will call upon him for an explanation of his remissness, and submit it together with his own remarks.

5. The Pay Certificates will be forwarded to Government.

6. These Proceedings will be communicated to Government, with reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 18th October 1867, No. 6,805.

No. 351. ORDER THEREON, 20th March 1868, No. 730.

Miscellaneous.

The Government await the explanation of the Deputy Collector Comarasawmy Mudeliar, and the Collector's remarks thereon, called for by the Board in the above Proceedings.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

W-730.

The Govt. await the explanation
of the Deputy Collector Amirasamy
Mudaliar, and the Collector's remarks
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14. 2nd B. of Revenue Dept. 20th March/68