

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1252	Press ~~Mis.~~
165-66	
Dated 5-5-	1871.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th May 1871.*

No. 105. Read the following letter from Mr. H. S. CUFFLEY, late Auditor, Controller's Office, Public Works Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 12th April 1871 —

I BEG very respectfully to forward, in triplicate, an appeal to His Grace the Duke of Argyll, Secretary of State for India, appealing against my removal from office by the Controller of Public Works Accounts, and to request that you will be so kind as to transmit the same to Government to be forwarded to its address.

2. I also beg to request that you will be kind enough to give my case your most favourable consideration, and transmit to me any orders that may be passed by the Government on my appeal.

No. 106. ORDER THEREON, 5th May 1871, No. 1,252.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 12.

ORDERED that the memorial received with this letter be forwarded to the Secretary of State, and that the memorialist be advised of its despatch

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. CARPENDALE, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To

**The Right Honorable his Grace the
DUKE OF ARGYLL, Secretary of State for India.**

MY LORD,

Your Memorialist now appeals against the orders of the Madras Government confirming his dismissal from the public service by the Controller of Public Works Accounts, in which service he had earned the good opinion of his immediate superiors, and had gained the position which he had last attained when he was summarily deprived of his Office

2 Fourteen years ago, in May 1856, your Memorialist was first employed in the Public Works Department, on a salary of Rupees 20 per mensem. By diligence and by steady work your Memorialist's humble efforts, as a subordinate, received their reward, and his salary was from time to time raised until it reached Rupees 200. The good repute which your Memorialist gained, caused him to be selected from the Office of the Controller of Public Works Accounts, Madras, for the responsible and onerous duties of Manager of the Office of the Superintending Engineer of the 5th Division, by Colonel C. V. Wilkieson of the Royal Engineers, an Officer of high standing in the service of Government, and lately Chief Engineer of Mysore. Consequent on ill health and to the climate of the District (Salem) to which your Memorialist was attached, your Memorialist was necessitated to resign a lucrative office, which he did on due Medical certificate from Dr. Roberts, the Zillah Surgeon of Salem, and returned to Madras, where he resumed his post of Auditor in the Office of the Controller of Public Works Accounts

3 The climate of the District did its work on your Memorialist's constitution, and he has ever since suffered from periodical attacks of illness which compelled your Memorialist to absent himself from office occasionally. Not long since, Mr. Samuel Brock was appointed the Controller, but your Memorialist regrets to say that the new Head of the Department was a "Pharaoh who knew not Joseph." While giving Mr. Brock every credit as a zealous officer, your Memorialist is constrained to observe that, in his case, the zeal was tinctured with intolerable severity. For every occasional absence a Medical certificate was required, and a moiety of salary stopped, and credited to Government. On the 1st March 1870, however, your Memorialist was suddenly informed by the Controller that his services were "dispensed with," although your Memorialist paid the penalty for being ill by forfeiting half his salary and incurring extra expenses for the production of the required certificate.

4 The reason for which your Memorialist was dismissed from the service was said to be "irregular attendance." Your Memorialist humbly submits that his irregularity in attendance was mainly owing to ill health, and dismissal, your Memorialist begs to observe, is too harsh a mode of punishment, and not in keeping with the offence, if absence, caused by sickness, may be deemed an offence. Your Memorialist ventures to remark that public servants can only be dismissed for fraud

and dishonesty, continued and wilful negligence, offences involving moral disgrace, and proved incompetency. Your Memorialist was not dismissed for these offences. After fourteen years' service it was not likely that your Memorialist would risk character, responsibility, position, and the interests of a growing family, by committing an offence calculated to deprive him absolutely of his livelihood, entail forfeiture of pension to which he would be entitled in a few years hence, and attach a lasting stigma on his name both in his public and private capacity as a servant of the State.

5 Besides, your Memorialist was dealt with by a sort of Jedwood justice, and condemned without enquiry or explanation by one who held office only recently, and necessarily was wanting in experience as regards his subordinates. During the whole period of service of fourteen years, your Memorialist believes that the whole of his absence put together would not amount to more than the period invariably allowed to public servants similarly situated as your Memorialist, which fact strengthens his appeal against the arbitrary manner in which he has been dealt with.

6 Your Memorialist submits copies of Testimonials received from several officers under whom he served. These testimonials from officers in the foremost ranks in the service, who knew your Memorialist well, record the strongest appreciation of your Memorialist's efforts as a subordinate, and certify to his efficiency, and to his uniform good conduct. Your Memorialist humbly ventures to solicit attention to the last paper in the list of testimonials, the copy of Colonel Wilkieson's letter to your Memorialist, dated the 10th of October 1870, written eight months after your Memorialist was dismissed from the service, on the occasion of your Memorialist, after appealing twice to the Government of Madras without obtaining redress, seeking for employment in the Bank of Madras.

7 Your Memorialist begs to add that the deprivation of office brings with it its attendant evils. He has lost thereby all claim to pension, which is virtually forfeiting fourteen years of hard spent life, he is left destitute with a family, he is unable to procure another place owing to the blot cast on his official career, and, should he be so fortunate as to secure a place, still his past services are scored out by this one harsh edict of the Controller "your services are dispensed with." It must further be remembered that the rules of the service prohibit any person who has been dismissed being re-employed without passing the tests prescribed. In his time of life, and with an incubus of misfortunes and distresses caused by his summary dismissal, your Memorialist is not even exceptionally treated as other servants have been, by exempting him from an expensive and tedious course of book-work. The object of examinations is to shut the portals of the public service against inefficient men. The testimonials submitted prove that your Memorialist's fitness and qualifications have been tried and not found wanting, and have been pronounced by gentlemen of high standing to be those which will do credit to your Memorialist in any post he may fill.

8 It will be observed that your Memorialist's appeal to the Local Government to be re-instated was submitted to the Controller for explanation, and, on the *ex parte* statement of that officer, your Memorialist's dismissal was confirmed. Your Memorialist to this day is not aware of the charges made to his prejudice; and the proper course your Memorialist submits, was to refer any charges for explanation, to your Memorialist. Nor did the Controller himself charge your Memorialist with any dereliction of duty, or incapacity; or require any reason why such severe measures should not be enforced.

9 Lastly, your Memorialist begs to state that he belongs to a respectable family, and that the disgrace which has been attached to him is keenly and bitterly felt. Your Memorialist's father served the State honorably for upwards of 31 years. Your Memorialist's grandfathers Major P. N. Cuffley and Lieutenant and Adjutant J. Rutherford were both in the Madras Army, the former died in the Deccan War. In mentioning these facts your Memorialist merely desires to shew that his antecedents were respectable, and that the harsh punishment with which he has been unjustly visited is a slur on himself and his family.

10 Under all the circumstances brought to notice, your Memorialist places his case entirely in the hands of Her Majesty's Government, and entreats that that justice may be awarded to him which has been denied by the Local Government.

For this Act of kindness, from your Lordship's hands, your Memorialist will ever pray.

Henry A. Cuffley

Late Auditor, Controller's Office, D. P. W.

MADRAS, 12th April 1871.

APPENDICES. COPIES OF TESTIMONIALS.

" Intelligent and painstaking, and discharges his duties satisfactorily "

(Signed) C. E. FABER, COLONEL,
Chief Engineer, D. P. W.

" Is an industrious and intelligent young man, and regular in his attendance "

(Signed) W. H. HORSLEY LT COL,
Chief Engineer, D. P. W.

" I am glad to be able to speak very highly of Mr Cuffley's character and abilities. He has proved himself very useful to me, and I have every reason to be satisfied with him. "

(Signed) H. TULLOCH LIEUTENANT, R. E.
Ag. Assistant to the Chief Engineer, D. P. W.

" Mr Henry Cuffley has been employed under me in the Central Office, and has asked me for a testimonial. I have very much pleasure in speaking to his great efficiency and zeal. I consider him a very promising young man, and likely some day to gain distinction. "

(Signed) H W RAWLINS, MAJOR,
Assistant to the Chief Engineer, D. P. W.

" Mr. Cuffley has been employed in the Central Office D. P. W. and Northern Circle Office, for a period of about seven years. His duties were those of an Accountant and Estimate-maker, which he discharged in a very satisfactory manner, his pay being gradually raised from 20 to 70 Rupees. On a vacancy occurring, I appointed him to the situation of Head Clerk, on a salary of 100 Rupees. The duties of this office he discharged with assiduity and intelligence, to my entire satisfaction, until the abolition of the office in April 1863, when he was transferred to the office of the Auditor and Controller of P. W. Accounts "

(Signed) S O E LUDLOW LT COLONEL, R. E.,
Late Deputy Chief Engineer, N. Circle,

" Mr. Henry Cuffley has conducted his duties entirely to my satisfaction, and I shall always be glad to hear of his promotion, I have now recommended him to the higher rate of pay, and I hope he may get it "

(Signed) C V. WILKIESON LT COLONEL, R. E.,
Controller of P. W. Accounts

P. 77. 1816/71
Ann. 5. 1816/71 L. 1816/71

"You may shew this letter to any one that you may wish to know my idea of your abilities "

[illegible]

P W Rept.
No 1252

Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Under date the 5th April 1871
Read the following

1871

You will be kind enough to give
my case your most favorable con-
sideration, and transmit to me
any orders that may be passed by
the Government on my appeal.

I beg to remain,
Your humble servant.

H. S. Cuffley.
Late Auditor, Controller's
Office, D. P. W.

My Address
H. S. Cuffley
Care of Rev. W. Taylor.
Colman & Girdant.
Melpank, Madras.

at the
with
arded
of Stat.
orialist
patches.

6/11/1871

Mr. H. S. Cuffley

"I have great pleasure in certifying to the diligent and able manner in which Mr. Cuffley transacted the duties of Manager* of the Superintending Engineer's Office, from the time I selected him from the Controller's Office, until I left the Division. Very regular in his attendance, painstaking, and with a happy knack of never having any arrears of work. I shall be always glad to hear of his promotion"

To MR CUFFLEY
DEAR SIR,

"I was v
from the P. W Co
health Whilst un
I always found you
glad, indeed, if Mr
of Accountant, who

MADRAS,

10th October 1870

"You may
of your abilities"

11/9/1870

Cuffley

P W Dept.
No 1252

Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Under date the 5th April 1871
Read the following

From Mr. H. S. Cuffley / H. S. 21st April 1871.

Ordered that the
Memorial received with
this letter be forwarded
to the Secretary of State
and that the Memorialist
be advised of its despatch.

W

15

Mr. H. S. Cuffley

Controller of Public
Works accounts prays
for transmission of
the same to the said
authority

Further requests
that his case may be
taken into favorable
consideration and
a favorable order
be given him.

P. W. Dr to Revenue 15th
May 1871

P. W. Dept.
Government of Madras.
No 1816
P. W. DEPARTMENT.

Petition No. 855 of 1871.
From Mr. H. S. Cuffley
Occupation. late auditor con
troller's office D P W
Village. residing at
Talook
District. Madras

Dated 12th April 1871
Received 14th April 1871
Enclosures 2

Abstract.

Submitting herewith
a memorial in Triplic
ate addressed to the
Right Honorable the
Secretary of State
for his removal
from office by the
5th May 1871

Ap 105

627/11/12. 29th

Dr. W. Dr. to Long's date 15-15
May 28 80/1871

1871
May 28 80/1871

May 28 80/1871

May 28 80/1871

Govt of (1871) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

1. Mr. H. S. Gifford

Date

Recd.

Enc. /

G O, 5th May 1871, No 1252.

Nos. 105 & 106

105 & 106 Mr. H. S. Gifford
Mr. H. S. Gifford
Gifford, Mr. H. S. Gifford
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