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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1188	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	23-4	28 75 195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
29th April 1875.

Read the following:—

No. 683. From B. C. E. VENCATASIAH, late Head Accountant, Palghaut Range,
dated 8th April 1875, No. ____.

No. 684. ORDER THEREON, 29th April 1875, No. 1,188.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 57.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor in
Council declines to order B. C. E. Venka-
tasiah's restoration to the appointment of
Head Accountant in the Palghaut Range.

2. The District Engineer was instructed by the Chief Engineer that he was
competent to reappoint him to any other office establishment in the Malabar District,
though he did not recommend his reinstatement as a Head Accountant. He is referred
to the District Engineer for employment to eke out his first period of service for
pension.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Malabar.
Petitioner, through District Engineer, Malabar.

Exd. W. J. Lowis.
Spare Copies

To,

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT MADRAS.

MOST RESPECTED SIR,

B. C. E. Venkatasiah late Head Accountant of the Paulghaut Range presumes to bring to your honor's favorable consideration the following brief statement of his grievances and respectfully prays for redress at your honor's hands.

2. Your Petitioner was employed in the permanent establishment of the Coimbatore and Paulghaut Ranges from 1860. His service in the Public Works Department extends to $13\frac{1}{2}$ years (or $1\frac{1}{2}$ years less than the period of service which would entitle him to retire on a pension) and the last appointment he held was that of the Head Accountant in the Paulghaut Range.

3. The Petitioner was employed in his last appointment for above 5 years and during the whole period of his connection he discharged his duties diligently and efficiently and his official superiors always expressed themselves well satisfied with him (as would appear from the Register kept in the District Engineer's Office).

4. For some time after Mr. Potter's arrival as Range Officer of Paulghaut he was very well satisfied with the work done by Petitioner as Head Accountant and wrote thus to the District Engineer on 11th June 1873. "The latter (the Head Accountant) however is very anxious to please and give satisfaction and is always diligent."

5. The Petitioner trusts that it may not be out of place to mention here that so far back as 9th June 1873 Petitioner addressed a letter to Mr. Potter (the Range Officer) to be forwarded by that Officer to the District Engineer, complaining to him of the excessive Office work which he had to do almost single handed, by the practice of the Range Officer ordering the Assistant Accountant to accompany him in his circuits &c.

6. From this time forward, there was a feeling of dislike on Mr. Potter's part towards your Petitioner which he displayed on many occasions and on account of which, he subjected petitioner to many petty annoyances.—This feeling of antipathy could not be attributed to any one single event and petitioner submits that it was of a gradual growth.

7. Petitioner's complaint referred to in para 5 was forwarded to the District Engineer who informed Mr. Potter of the illegality of his proceedings and much correspondence ensued there on between the two Officers in respect thereof. And with a view to free himself from all blame that might attach to him in consequence of his breach of his Office rules, Mr. Potter threw all the

blame upon your petitioner and attributed the accumulation of the arrears in the Office work and so forth solely to petitioner's incapacity and slowness. The final issue of all this correspondence was that the District Engineer by an order dated 21st October 1873, degraded your petitioner to the Assistant Accountant's post in Cochin Range.

8. Petitioner begs that your honor will peruse the letter of explanation submitted by petitioner to the District Engineer on 3rd September 1873, and the final order made by that Officer on 21st October 1873. Your honor will perceive that the District Engineer admits to some extent the irregular practices of the Range Officer. The reason for degrading petitioner is what is called his insubordinate and dis-respectful behaviour.

9. To clear himself of this imputation, petitioner ventures to lay these facts before your honor,

(a) the irregular adjustment of accounts ordered from time to time by the Range Officer as in the case of Belts which were ordered of Messrs Orr and Co.

(b) the practice of sending instructions to petitioner thus "debit this amount to such and such account" "this slip to be returned,"—&c. This mode of keeping accounts obliged petitioner to enter into the account book several unauthorized items of expenditure. Your honor will perceive that petitioner was justified as a matter of prudential precaution in retaining the slips of instructions for his self protection.

(c) The constant demand of the Range Officer for the return of these slips and the refusal of petitioner to part with them also contributed to this unpleasant feeling.

The frequent reimonstrances which petitioner made in respect of these transactions was magnified into gross insult and disrespectful behaviour.

10. These circumstances together with the excellent testimonials which certify to his character and so forth will, petitioner ventures to hope, convince your honor that there is really no satisfactory ground for the harsh steps taken against him by the District Engineer. To corroborate this, petitioner begs to quote Mr. Harington's letter to the Chief Engineer, dated 30th December 1873. That Officer, on reconsidering the facts of this case, writes "Vencatasiah complains and I cannot help thinking with some reason, of the treatment he has experienced and earnestly begs that he may be allowed to resume his appointment of Head Accountant and to hold it until such time as the failure of his health may necessitate his applying for pension of $\frac{1}{4}$ of his salary and I submit that the request is not an outrageous one. He is an elderly man though his registered service in the department only dates from the 1st January 1860, but he held many temporary appointments before that and his testimonials during his registered service are generally good. I think that he might be allowed to revert to his appointment of Head Accountant &co. &co."

11. The matter was brought before the chief Engineer who disposed of it by his memorandum of 17th February 1874, wherein the Chief Engineer empowered the District Engineer to employ the petitioner under him in any capacity other than that of the Head Accountant.

12. After the District Engineer made his final order on 21st October 1873, transferring petitioner to the Cochin Range as Assistant Accountant, Petitioner underwent a succession of misfortunes, Firstly his illness compelled him to be absent for 3 months on sick leave; Secondly the Establishment of the Cochin Range was ordered to proceed to Rajamundry and lastly, when the petitioner was still under medical treatment, he was informed that there was no appointment in the D. P. W. Establishment of Rajamundry to which he might be transferred and that, therefore, his services were dispensed with and he was recommended to apply for the usual gratuity.

13. Rather than take the gratuity petitioner was willing to enter into the service, to remain there for $1\frac{1}{2}$ years more in order to qualify himself for a pension of $\frac{1}{4}$ of his pay and in spite of his applications he has hitherto been unsuccessful.

14. Thus has petitioner an old public servant been degraded from his appointment of Head Accountant (on a charge which it is very easy to make and to refute which is almost impossible, viz, act of insubordination) and immediately afterwards compelled to go home without employ, in his old age turned adrift into the world and his prospect of honorably retiring on a well earned pension entirely cut off.

15. The Petitioner begs that your honor will be pleased to take a merciful view of his case and respectfully prays that an order may be passed to reinstate him in his appointment of Head Accountant in Paulghaut Range.

8th April 75.
MADRAS: }

I beg to remain, most Respected Sir,
your honor's obedient & humble servant.

B. C. Venkatasiah

to any other office established

(1) Mr. Depts.
 Proceedings of the Madras Government
 Read the following.

From
 Venkatasiah, late Head
 Accountant Palghat Range
 (H.O. No. 98th April 1875)
 G.O. No. 1188 of 29th April 1875

His Excellency the
 Governor in Council de-
 clined to order B.C. Venka-
 tasiiah's restoration to the
 appointment of Head
 Accountant in the Pal-
 ghaut Range.

The District Engineer
 was instructed by the Chief
 Engineer that he was com-
 petent to reappoint him
 to any other office established

From Venkatasiah
 late Head Accountant
 Palghat Range
 29th April 1875
 G.O. No. 1188-29-4-75

establishment in the
Matlab District than
he did not continue
his reinstatement as a
Head Accountant. He
returned to the District
Bureaux for employment
to take out his first period
afterwards for pension.

Amr

To Dist. Hq. Matlab
Petitioner through D. B. B. B.

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Obt. of (1875) Saladaras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Int. Eugeneir
Malabar.

Dated

Recd.

G. O. 2944/1875.

1188

For 1183-1184

Venkatasiah, late Head Accountant
Palghat Range: Declining

to order the reinstatement
of — to his original post
but advising him to apply to
the District Engineer for
employment in any other
office establishment in the
Malabar District, to enable
him to eke out his first
period of service for pension.