To be Substituted for my Letter to the Chief Secretary to Government in the Pension Department, dated 28th May 1880.

To

The Most Noble Richard Plantagenet Campbell,
Temple Nugent Brydges Chandos Grenville,
Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
Councillor of the Empress, G.C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Governor and President in Council, &c. &c.
Fort St. George.

The humble petition of W. A. LAUGHLIN,
late Accountant, Public Works Department.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That he be allowed to forward the following for submission to your Grace in the fervent hope that it will meet with a deliberate and just consideration as his convictions lead him to infer that he is claiming nothing but what is just and right under the Orders of Government, without appealing for an extenuation or attaching any undue significance thereto, now that he is thrown out of employment under the Financial Resolution of the Government of India, No. 2079, P. W. D., dated 31st July 1879, and that his services hereunder set forth may be properly reckoned for pensionary provision.

2. That your Petitioner served in the Army Clothing Agency Department for a period of 10 months as an Accountant on a salary of Rs. 75 per mensem, from 1st June 1862 to 31st March 1863, and owing to a re-classification of the Office Establishment under the Orders of Government, in the Military Department, No. 1372, dated 27th April 1863, he was unfortunately thrown out of employment, for no fault of his own. The manner in which he conducted his onerous and arduous duties was favourably brought to the special notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief—*Vide* letter of the Superintendent and Agent for Army Clothing, No. 1521, dated 5th July 1862, to the Deputy Adjutant General, H. M.'s British Forces, paras. 3, 4, and 5, and also to his letter No. 2442, dated 18th August 1862.

3. That in September 1863, he was specially selected by Sir Alexander John Arbuthnot, Chief, and William Hobart Kerr, Esquire, Under, Secretaries to Government, amongst upwards of 200 applicants to fill the appointment of Head Accountant in the Office of the Government Press, on a salary of Rs. 60 per mensem, which he held till 17th May 1865, embracing a period of 1 year and 9 months' service, from which he was unhappily removed under the Orders of Government in the Public Department, No. 305 dated 22nd March 1865, and No. 513, dated 17th May 1865, for having availed himself of the benefit of the Insolvent Act. The Government have, however, been graciously pleased in Order No. 1810 of 1865, to declare that, "The Government have no objection to the re-employment of Mr. Laughlin in the Public Service."

4. With reference to the above Order, No 1810 of 1865, he would deferentially beg to submit that he is led to infer that his previous Service, was in no way affected so as to prejudice his claims in counting the above service of 1 year and 9 months, and also, that of 10

months in the Army Clothing Agency Department towards the usual reckoning for a pensionary grant, and, it is confidently hoped that, a paternal Government will liberally concede this boon to him, under Note 2, of Section 56 of the Civil Pension Code.

5. In connection with the foregoing circumstances, he begs to submit that he was entertained as a Temporary Accountant in the Office of the Controller of P. W. Accounts on 1st September 1865, and held this till May 1866, making in all a total period of 9 months :—the services of this batch were in due course dispensed with, and the Temporary Establishment which was employed was now invested into a permanent footing, and amongst this number he obtained a tangible position on a salary of 40 Rs. per mensem there being no intermission in his service in the Temporary Establishment and that of his being taken on permanently when the revised scale came in force; he would therefore, most humbly beg that this temporary tenure of 9 months' service, may now be formally condoned under section 57 (*b*) of the Civil Pension Code by a liberal and just Government so that his whole service shall be considered as continuous service rendered in one and the same Office up to date of retirement, namely, 18th March 1880, qualifying for pension.

Vide G. O. No. 2,361, dated 14th August 1865 and G. O., No. 1,578 dated 6th June 1866.

6. In conclusion he most humbly and very respectfully craves the indulgent consideration of a *benign* Government, to the hardships he has undergone in the *deprivation* of advantages so liberally allowed to Graded Accountants, on their retirement, under the Financial Resolution of the Government of India referred to in para. 1 *supra* on the subject of *average pensions for service above* 10 *years and a bonus of* 12 *month's salary*. It was his misfortune not to have been graded prior to retirement, to afford scope for enjoying these advantages; although he was one of the number (12), specially recommended by the late Controller P. W. Accounts, Major L. Conway Gordon, R. E. *for exemption* by the Accountant General, P. W. D., from passing the P. W. Entrance Examination, which concession was readily acceded to *eighteen months ago*; under Section 216, Public Works Code; and were Major Conway-Gordon here to carry out the reductions in the Accounts Branch of the P. W. D., he feels sure that, in due appreciation of merit and from a sense of justice, and since he was virtually an Accountant throughout the whole course of his service under Government, as copies of his Testimonials, herewith attached, sufficiently indicate, as also, the classified annual lists of Establishment of the Public Works Department printed under the authority of Government have exhibited certain individuals as Accountants of Grades, and others as Clerks for several years past, until recently, he would in all probability have been graded by the Examiner (vide para. 21 of the Madras P. W. Code of 1877) and permitted to retire as a Graded Accountant in common with another subordinate similarly exempted, but who had the good fortune to have been graded in time and is now the lucky recipient of the advantages which he is thus deprived of, simply from being latterly designated a Clerk, *although specially recommended for exemption as an Accountant by Major Gordon himself, and he having complied with the requirements laid down in his Circular No.* 40 *of* 1876, *paras.* 2 *and* 3, *by which it will be seen that he was entitled to certain allowances as follows.* It is respectfully suggested that a concession in his favor under the terms of India's Resolution of July 1879, will not be a precedence for many another similar case, for of those *exempted* only 5 (five) have been retired including the Accountant just referred to.

Vide G. O. No. 3578 W., dated 11th Sept. 1878, directing the Examiner to submit a list of the Accountants eligible for exemption and gradation, and the Examiner's letter to the Accountant General, P. W. D., No. 116A, dated 4th October 1878, forwarding that list with the Accountant General's reply thereto dated 25th December 1878, approving and sanctioning the said list.

House Rent from 25th December 1878 to 18th March 1880 at 10 Rs. per mensem (about 15 months)..	150
Presidency allowance from April 1879 to 18th March 1880 at 30 Rs. per mensem (about 12 months)...	360
	510

making a total of about Rs. 510 which he has also been deprived of and has not been recouped for it up to date, although mere lads with no official experience have fully benefitted by this

ruling in exception, and to the disadvantage of their seniors in office. This concession, he fervently begs will also be viewed with due consideration and justly awarded to him in this time of urgent need by a liberal Government from the fact that, notwithstanding their oft-repeated calls on the Examiner to have the Accountants graded it is presumed, that such requests were not complied with: he begs therefore that the above will have due and consistent weight in the matter of this appeal as affecting his average pension, and which if denied will also affect his future prospects in life.

7. Regretting these drawbacks it is due to the indefatigable exertions, and humane generous sympathies of Major D. H. Trail, R. E., Examiner P. W. A., that, however led to a *partial* consideration of 3 months' pay as a bonus being sanctioned at the hands of a paternal Government for all—some of whom were actually Accountants, while others were *bonâ fide* clerks.

Government of Madras Pension Dept., No. 267, dated 30th March 1880.

8. Lest the above explanation should not be considered clear enough, and in order to present the extent of his services in a more compact form, he begs to subjoin the following abstract of his services :—

	Y.	M.	D.	
Army Clothing Agency.....	0	10	0	from 1st June 1862 to 31st March 1863, Permanent.
Fort St George Gazette Press..	1	9	0	,, September 1863 to 17th May 1865, do.
Examiner P. W. Accounts....	0	9	0	,, 1st September 1865 to May 1866, Temporary (to be condoned.)
Do.	14	0	4	,, 1st June 1866 to 4th June 1880, Permanent.
Do.	0	3	0	Specially allowed by Govt. of India to complete short service.
	17	7	4	

He earnestly urges that he would be most seriously distressed, if what he now asks for is not conceded, after due consideration of his case, more especially as he simply craves the benefits which are provided for in the Financial Code for persons similarly situated in the unfortunate position in which your Grace's Memorialist now finds himself. Being deformed, he has always been obliged to employ a vehicle of some kind to take him to and from his place of business. To do this would be impracticable now under his present altered circumstances, seeing that he is advancing in age, and infirmities are increasing upon him in consequence; thus his vision is becoming more impaired and other physical defects commensurate with age, are slowly and steadily marking him out in debility, and want of tenacity for continuous physical exertion, further induced by severe privations from inadequate means of support, and protracted impecunious circumstances, having a large growing family consisting of 7 daughters, a wife and a widowed mother-in-law dependent on him for their present and *future* maintenance; these with himself, will be hopelessly plunged into absolute poverty, and inevitable ruin and destitution; and it is with this forecast of such a prospect, that he humbly ventures earnestly and confidently to implore the Government *mercifully* to shield him from any misconstruction of his claims, as a faithful servant of the State, and vouchsafe to him such adequate protection as the concessions adverted to in Financial Resolution of the Government of India, No 2079, P. W. D., dated 31st July 1879, will consistently admit of in consideration of his services and the encouragement thereby held out which induced him to accept the alternative of retirement.

9. Commending this respectful appeal to your generous and humane consideration, and as in duty bound he will ever pray.

Leigh McLaughlin

Late Accountant, Office of Examiner P. W. Accounts.

Madras,
10 June 1880.

TESTIMONIALS.

7th November 1856.

MR. LAUGHLAN,

The Secretary grants you a gratuity of a month's pay, *i. e.* 42 Rs., as a reward for your attention to business, and hopes it will be an incentive to correct performance for the future of your duties as it is an earnest of his disposition to reward desert.

(Signed) A. H. H. (Signed) J. C. WILKINSON.

MADRAS MILITARY MALE ORPHAN ASYLUM, No. 150.

This is to certify that William A. Laughlan is permitted to leave the Institution from this date for the purpose of being employed as a Clerk at the Military Male Orphan Asylum Press.

Admitted into the School on the 6th day of April 1849.

Discharged this 13th day of August 1853.

Character during the above period—Good, which I certify.

(Signed) A. H. HOPE,
Secretary.

MADRAS,
28*th July* 1858.

By order of the Governors,

(Signed) A. H. HOPE,
Secretary.

MADRAS, 15*th September* 1859.

It gives me great pleasure to certify to the integrity and aptitude for business which six years' knowledge enables me to do of Mr. W. A. Laughlan, Clerk Asylum Press.

(Signed) A. H. HOPE, Captain,
3rd M. L. Cavalry.

MADRAS, *February* 25*th*, 1860.

LAUGHLAN,

Consequent on my proceeding to China I have given over charge of the Male Asylum Press to Captain Drury. I cannot however leave Madras without recording and also intimating to you how very satisfied I have been as to the manner in which you have conducted your duties since my assuming the office of Secretary to the Asylum in September last. You have proved yourself well worthy of the praise bestowed upon you by Captain Hope.

Your duties at the Press are arduous and demand constant attention and considerable method, and I can conscientiously affirm that I have never met with your equal among persons of your position.

(Signed) J. W. RIDEOUT.

William Alexander Laughlan, Head Clerk to the Male Asylum Press, has conducted the duty of his Department to my entire satisfaction during the period I have officiated as Secretary to the Male Orphan Asylum.

MADRAS,
7*th May* 1860.

(Signed) C. H. DRURY, Captain,
27th Regt. N. I.

MADRAS, 11*th February* 1861.

MR. LAUGHLAN,

I thank you much for your letter of this day's date, and the kindly wishes it conveys. I am sorry to hear that you are at present out of employ, but trust it may not be for long,

your industrious and business-like habits, would I should think, fully prevent such a misfortune.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) GEO. TALBOT, Colonel.

MADRAS, 10*th December* 1861.

The Bearer, Mr. Laughlan, has served as Mess Writer of the 34th L. I. since February last. He is intelligent and careful in the conduct of his duties and has in general given the Officers every satisfaction.

(Signed) A. C. SILVER,
Commanding 34th Lt. Infy.

MADRAS, 30*th April* 1863.

This is to certify that owing to a reclassification of the Office Establishment of the Madras Clothing Agency under the authority of Government, Mr. Laughlan who has been in the Department since June 1862 has been thrown out of employment.

I regret this, as Mr. Laughlan has always been attentive, and industrious, while in this department.

He was employed on a salary of Rs. 75 per mensem which he has lost from no fault of his own, and I hope this Certificate will soon enable him to obtain other employment.

(Signed) A. C. SILVER, Lt-Col.,
Superintendent and Agent for Army Clothing.

Certified that Mr. Laughlan, appointed by me as Accountant in the Government Press, conducted his duties to my satisfaction, while I was his official superior.

Mr. Laughlan is I believe a good Accountant, and if his health permits him, well able for a higher appointment, though the Account Work in the Press if properly done is no sinecure.

MERCARA,
December 1864.

(Signed) W. H. KERR, C. S.

Mr. W. A. Laughlan was employed as Accountant of the Government Printing Establishment, Fort St. George, from September 1863 to May 1865, and performed his duties with ability and zeal. He was dismissed under the orders of Government for having taken the benefit of the Insolvent Act.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
20*th July* 1865.

(Signed) H. SMITH,
Superintendent Govt. Printing Press.

Mr. W. A. Loughlan was employed in the Government Press at the time of my taking charge in July 1864, as Accountant; and I believe I am only doing him justice in stating that the accounts in his hands were well and punctually kept. His insolvency caused his suspension, shortly before I took leave in April last, and I now find that Government declined to reinstate him.

I have never had reason to find any fault with him and should be glad to hear of his obtaining suitable employment.

July 25, 1865.

(Signed) C. G. WALKER,
Under-Secretary to Government.

Read Letter from Mr. Laughlan to W. H. Kerr, Esquire, Superintendent of Coorg.

MR. LAUGHLAN. Answer thereto dated Coorg, 21st August 1864.

The best testimonal you can get as to the way in which you have performed your duties as Accountant in the Press will be the Auditor's Report. To the best of my knowledge you kept the accounts well and correctly while I was Supervisor, and you certainly kept them

neatly and had them always written up to date; but until I know the result of the Auditor's examination I cannot say more. I shall be glad of course to hear of your getting on and getting higher pay, but I must say that I should not feel myself justified in supporting the application which you tell me you are going to make; and if you take my advice you will not make it at least at present.

* * * * *

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) W. H. KERR.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Department, dated 21*st September* 1865.

From J. MACKEY, Esquire, Auditor of the Press Accounts; to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 30th July 1864.

* * * * *

Paragraph 13. From all that I have seen I believe the Press Accounts to be faithfully kept by Mr. W. A. Laughlan, the Accountant.

(True copy.)

(Signed) W. A. LAUGHLIN.

No. 1810 of 1865.

The Government have no objection to the re-employment of Mr. Laughlan in the Public Service.

FORT SAINT GEORGE, 22*nd August* 1865.
(By order.)

(Signed) C. G. WALKER,
Under-Secretary to Government.

Read Letter from Mr. W. A. Laughlan to S. Brock, Esq., Controller, P. W. Accounts, Madras, dated 20th February 1869.

Answer thereto.

I will bear Mr. Laughlan's case in mind, and, if a suitable opportunity offer, will certainly place him in a better position in the office.

(Signed) S. BROCK.

Read Letter from Mr. W. A. Laughlan to S. Brock, Esq., Controller, P. W. Accounts, Madras, dated 1st July 1869.

Answer thereto.

Very well. I know Mr. Laughlan to be really a hard working man.

(Signed) S. BROCK.

Has made himself useful in the office, he is a good accountant and regular in his attendance in office.

17*th September* 1867.

(Signed) J. F. FISHER,
Captain, R. E.

He has continued to be steady, attentive, and satisfactory in the performance of his duties.

28*th May* 1868.

(Signed) P. P. L. O'CONNEL,
Lt.-Col., R. E.

An intelligent steady man in whom I have always felt an interest. He applies himself to his work with energy, and as Sub-Auditor in the 1st Division has given very great satisfaction. It was my intention, if the scheme submitted to Government in my letter No. 2525, dated 29-1-73, had been sanctioned before my relief, to have given Mr. Laughlan the audit of one of the small Districts.

(Signed) S. BROCK.

April 1873.

Original

To

His Excellency
The Right Honorable W. Hudleston,
Councillor of the Empress,
Governor and President in Council,
Fort Saint George.

The humble petition of WILLIAM ALEXANDER LAUGHLIN, *late Accountant, Examiner's Office, Public Works Department.*

Enc: 2.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That your Excellency's Petitioner while acknowledging the receipt of Government Orders marginally noted would humbly and very respectfully express his sincere and heartfelt gratitude to His Excellency the Governor, the Members of Council and other High Officials of State, for the grant of a Compensation Pension of Twenty-Six Rupees a month. Petitioner would however most deferentially beg to state that he is entitled by the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department Resolution No. 2079, P. W. D., dated 31st July 1879, to *an Average Pension for service above ten years*, and *a bonus of twelve months' salary*. The following reasons will fully explain Petitioner's eligibility to the concessions stated above.

G. O. No. 2052, W., P. W. D., dated 30th August 1880.
G. O. No. 1120, Pension Department, dated 22nd November 1880.
G. O. No. 267, Pension Department, dated 8th March 1881.

(1.) That Petitioner was entertained in the Accounts Branch of the Public Works Department on the 1st September 1865, as an Accountant (vide Reports of the Officers under whom Petitioner served, and his testimonials annexed.) In this capacity, he audited the accounts of 3 Districts, of 15 Ranges or Divisions, (often single-handed) and, from press of work, at his leisure hours, in order to meet the pressing exigencies

G. O. No. 2361, P. W. D., dated 14th Aug. 1865.
G. O. No. 1578, P. W. D., dated 6th June 1866.

Letter of Contr. para. 7 in G. O. No. 2361 P. W. D., dated 14th August 1865.
Do 2 in „ 2379 „ 21st „ 1874.
Do 3+6 in „ 947 „ 11th Apl. „.

of the State. This fact is borne out by references marginally quoted.

(2.) That your Petitioner was *specially selected* from the staff of Accountants and Clerks, with *eleven* others, and after trial, he was declared eligible for exemption from the Entrance Examination, and *thus* entitled to being on the Graded list of the Government of India,—vide G. O. No. 3,578 dated 11th September 1878, directing the Examiner to submit a list of Accountants eligible for exemption and gradation; with the Examiner's Letter No. 116A, to the Accountant General P. W. D. dated 4th October 1878, forwarding the list; and likewise his reply thereto dated 25th December 1878, sanctioning the same, which is dated so far back as *eighteen months* prior to Petitioner's retirement from the service. Further, were the privileges attaching to this grade applied, Petitioner would now be entitled to the enhanced emoluments of Presidency Allowance and House Rent, which amount to *Rupees Five hundred and ten*, for a Fourth Grade Accountant referred to in para. 6 of his previous petition.

(3.) That Petitioner promptly complied with the conditions of service required per Examiner's Circular No. 40 of 1876, paras. 2 and 3, humbly expecting meanwhile that after signing a *Covenant*, and electing for general service, the Examiner would be pleased to favorably notice Petitioner's claims to a fulfilment on his part of the obligations of the *contract* made with Petitioner. That Officer was frequently called upon by Government to grade the Accountants, but this was unfortunately allowed to remain in *statu quo*, during Petitioner's tenure of office. It is, Petitioner submits, his firm conviction, that were Major L. Conway-Gordon, R. E., present at the time to carry out the reductions in the Accounts Branch of the P. W. D., the Controller would have graded the *3 exempted men*, and also admitted them to the advantages, equally with one of their number subsequently graded, and who retired with concessions therein held out. By paragraph 21, of the Madras Public Works Code of 1877, the Controller is vested with such power and therefore he promoted a subordinate, (a mere "Reference Picker," who never had the manipulation of accounts) to a *Fifth*

grade Accountantship, and who, after drawing the salary of the grade with its emoluments, namely Presidency Allowance and House Rent for a month, was remanded to his original position, presumedly, Petitioner humbly thinks, from the fact of his being nothing more than a mere Clerk throughout the whole course of his service, and this supposition was afterwards found to be a fact, and therefore if a Clerk could have been exempted it would seem a matter of omission on the part of Major Conway-Gordon in not having graded *bonâ fide* Accountants that have 18 months previously specially been exempted by the Accountant General P. W. D., and thus pronounced to be Accountants eligible to all the privileges attached to that grade. It will thus be seen that the concessions granted to Accountants by the Government of India were withheld not because that the Petitioner was not considered an Accountant but simply because Major Conway-Gordon for reasons that he could best explain failed to grade. the 12 men pronounced to be Accountants by the Accountant General P. W. D., at the time of that Officer's communication or 18 months prior to the retirement of Petitioner. The Government will no doubt be pleased to consider the loss that has been sustained by the neglectful act of a superior Officer and also a right which the Petitioner has a claim to rectification at the hands of Government considering that he has fulfilled all the conditions required of an Accountant though not by any fault of his own he has been denied the mere formality of being graded.

(4.) Petitioner begs to submit, that prior to 1876, the Local Government published a Gradation List of their P. W. D. subordinates annually, including both Executive and Accounts Branch, in which they have been regularly exhibited in *classified* grades of Overseers, Accountants and Clerks, and promotions, &c., therein were invariably sanctioned accordingly. This list, however, was distinct from that maintained by the Government of India hitherto. An employé once borne on the Government of India's List of Accountants, notwithstanding his having left that service for many years was subsequently entertained in other departments locally, and at last being admitted

into the Accounts Branch of the P. W. D. of this Presidency was held *ipse de facto* an Accountant by Major L. Conway-Gordon, R.E., and drew the arrears of house rent and permitted to retire with all the privileges accruing to this class of subordinates under the Government of India's Resolution thereon. Petitioner would therefore humbly beg that Madras Accountants on their once recognized status and particularly those who have been regularly and bonâ fide employed upon the legitimate duties of Accountants, and *specially exempted* from the entrance examination, and who were also *defacto* and *dejure* Accountants, be uniformly held likewise amenable to the concessions granted to Accountants and Upper Subordinates in other Provinces, but denied only to the local *ungraded* Accountants, while it is allowed to their confreres, the Overseers of the P. W. D. of this Presidency. The Resolution noted above makes no distinction between Accountant and *graded* Accountant, as your Excellency will perceive.

2. That under a misconstruction, vide para. 1 of the tabular statement printed with G. O. No. 2052, W., P. W. D. dated 30th August 1880, a period of *Eleven months' service* in the Army Clothing Agency Department has been thrown out. But Petitioner humbly begs to submit that this service is allowed and qualifies for pension, as a *re-classification* of the Office Establishment alone debarred this claim and by nothing prejudicial to his position and prospects as a public servant,—see testimonial granted to Petitioner by the Superintendent and Agent for Army Clothing.

3. That humbly relying that his case will be graciously viewed in a just, charitable and favourable light after perusal of the Official papers bearing on the Madras Accountants, and on which documents your Petitioner has founded his claims, he trusts your Excellency will consider him an arduous, zealous and faithful servant deserving of the claims hereunder set forth.

I. Average Pension and Bonus.

II. Presidency Allowance and House Rent, and

III. Eleven Months' Service qualifying for pension. And Petitioner as in duty bound Will Ever Pray.

MADRAS,
31st May 1881.

W. A. Laughlin

Late Accountant, P. W. D.

The humble petition of William Alexander Laughlin, late Accountant, Examiner's office P.W. Department.

To

His Excellency, the Governor and President in Comm. Fort Saint George.

Dated 31st May 1881.

Received

Petitioner prays for an average pension for service above ten years, and a bonus of twelve months' salary, and eleven months' qualifying service for pension, and in support of the prayer quotes Government of India Finance & Commerce Department Resolution No. 2079, P.W.D., 31st. July 1879. Meanwhile with great gratitude heartily thanks His Excellency in Council for Compensation grant of Twenty Six Rupees a month. Sets forth certain Official documents and papers proving good service, conduct and zeal in the Service of Government. Humbly relies on His Excellency in Council for a charitable view of his case.

To be Substituted for my Letter to the Chief Secretary to Government in the Pension Department, dated 28th May 1880.

To

The Most Noble Richard Plantagenet Campbell,
Temple Nugent Brydges Chandos Grenville,
Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
Councillor of the Empress, G.C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Governor and President in Council, &c. &c.
Fort St. George.

The humble petition of W. A. LAUGHLIN,
late Accountant, Public Works Department.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That he be allowed to forward the following for submission to your Grace in the fervent hope that it will meet with a deliberate and just consideration as his convictions lead him to infer that he is claiming nothing but what is just and right under the Orders of Government, without appealing for an extenuation or attaching any undue significance thereto, now that he is thrown out of employment under the Financial Resolution of the Government of India, No. 2079, P. W. D., dated 31st July 1879, and that his services hereunder set forth may be properly reckoned for pensionary provision.

2. That your Petitioner served in the Army Clothing Agency Department for a period of 10 months as an Accountant on a salary of Rs. 75 per mensem, from 1st June 1862 to 31st March 1863, and owing to a re-classification of the Office Establishment under the Orders of Government, in the Military Department, No. 1372, dated 27th April 1863, he was unfortunately thrown out of employment, for no fault of his own. The manner in which he conducted his onerous and arduous duties was favourably brought to the special notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief—*Vide* letter of the Superintendent and Agent for Army Clothing, No. 1521, dated 5th July 1862, to the Deputy Adjutant General, H. M.'s British Forces, paras. 3, 4, and 5, and also to his letter No. 2442, dated 18th August 1862.

3. That in September 1863, he was specially selected by Sir Alexander John Arbuthnot, Chief, and William Hobart Kerr, Esquire, Under, Secretaries to Government, amongst upwards of 200 applicants to fill the appointment of Head Accountant in the Office of the Government Press, on a salary of Rs. 60 per mensem, which he held till 17th May 1865, embracing a period of 1 year and 9 months' service, from which he was unhappily removed under the Orders of Government in the Public Department, No. 305 dated 22nd March 1865, and No. 513, dated 17th May 1865, for having availed himself of the benefit of the Insolvent Act. The Government have, however, been graciously pleased in Order No. 1810 of 1865, to declare that, "The Government have no objection to the re-employment of Mr. Laughlin in the Public Service."

4. With reference to the above Order, No 1810 of 1865, he would deferentially beg to submit that he is led to infer that his previous Service, was in no way affected so as to prejudice his claims in counting the above service of 1 year and 9 months, and also, that of 10

months in the Army Clothing Agency Department towards the usual reckoning for a pensionary grant, and, it is confidently hoped that, a paternal Government will liberally concede this boon to him, under Note 2, of Section 56 of the Civil Pension Code.

5. In connection with the foregoing circumstances, he begs to submit that he was entertained as a Temporary Accountant in the Office of the Controller of P. W. Accounts on 1st September 1865, and held this till May 1866, making in all a total period of 9 months :—the services of this batch were in due course dispensed with, and the Temporary Establishment which was employed was now invested into a permanent footing, and amongst this number he obtained a tangible position on a salary of 40 Rs. per mensem there being no intermission in his service in the Temporary Establishment and that of his being taken on permanently when the revised scale came in force; he would therefore, most humbly beg that this temporary tenure of 9 months' service, may now be formally condoned under section 57 (*b*) of the Civil Pension Code by a liberal and just Government so that his whole service shall be considered as continuous service rendered in one and the same Office up to date of retirement, namely, 18th March 1880, qualifying for pension.

Vide G. O. No. 2,361, dated 14th August 1865 and G. O., No. 1,578 dated 6th June 1866.

6. In conclusion he most humbly and very respectfully craves the indulgent consideration of a *benign* Government, to the hardships he has undergone in the *deprivation* of advantages so liberally allowed to Graded Accountants, on their retirement, under the Financial Resolution of the Government of India referred to in para. 1 *supra* on the subject of *average pensions for service above* 10 *years and a bonus of* 12 *month's salary*. It was his misfortune not to have been graded prior to retirement, to afford scope for enjoying these advantages; although he was one of the number (12), specially recommended by the late Controller P. W. Accounts, Major L. Conway Gordon, R. E. *for exemption* by the Accountant General, P. W. D., from passing the P. W. Entrance Examination, which concession was readily acceded to *eighteen months ago*; under Section 216, Public Works Code; and were Major Conway-Gordon here to carry out the reductions in the Accounts Branch of the P. W. D., he feels sure that, in due appreciation of merit and from a sense of justice, and since he was virtually an Accountant throughout the whole course of his service under Government, as copies of his Testimonials, herewith attached, sufficiently indicate, as also, the classified annual lists of Establishment of the Public Works Department printed under the authority of Government have exhibited certain individuals as Accountants of Grades, and others as Clerks for several years past, until recently, he would in all probability have been graded by the Examiner (vide para. 21 of the Madras P. W. Code of 1877) and permitted to retire as a Graded Accountant in common with another subordinate similarly exempted, but who had the good fortune to have been graded in time and is now the lucky recipient of the advantages which he is thus deprived of, simply from being latterly designated a Clerk, *although specially recommended for exemption as an Accountant by Major Gordon himself, and he having complied with the requirements laid down in his Circular No.* 40 *of* 1876, *paras.* 2 *and* 3, *by which it will be seen that he was entitled to certain allowances as follows.* It is respectfully suggested that a concession in his favor under the terms of India's Resolution of July 1879, will not be a precedence for many another similar case, for of those *exempted* only 5 (five) have been retired including the Accountant just referred to.

Vide G. O. No. 3578 W., dated 11th Sept. 1878, directing the Examiner to submit a list of the Accountants eligible for exemption and gradation, and the Examiner's letter to the Accountant General, P. W. D., No. 116A, dated 4th October 1878, forwarding that list with the Accountant General's reply thereto dated 25th December 1878, approving and sanctioning the said list.

House Rent from 25th December 1878 to 18th March 1880 at 10 Rs. per mensem (about 15 months)..	150
Presidency allowance from April 1879 to 18th March 1880 at 30 Rs. per mensem (about 12 months)...	360
	510

making a total of about Rs. 510 which he has also been deprived of and has not been recouped for it up to date, although mere lads with no official experience have fully benefitted by this

ruling in exception, and to the disadvantage of their seniors in office. This concession, he fervently begs will also be viewed with due consideration and justly awarded to him in this time of urgent need by a liberal Government from the fact that, notwithstanding their oft-repeated calls on the Examiner to have the Accountants graded it is presumed, that such requests were not complied with: he begs therefore that the above will have due and consistent weight in the matter of this appeal as affecting his average pension, and which if denied will also affect his future prospects in life.

7. Regretting these drawbacks it is due to the indefatigable exertions, and humane generous sympathies of Major D. H. Trail, R. E., Examiner P. W. A., that, however led to a *partial* consideration of 3 months' pay as a bonus being sanctioned at the hands of a paternal Government for all—some of whom were actually Accountants, while others were *bonâ fide* clerks.

Government of Madras Pension Dept., No. 267, dated 30th March 1880.

8. Lest the above explanation should not be considered clear enough, and in order to present the extent of his services in a more compact form, he begs to subjoin the following abstract of his services :—

	Y.	M.	D.	
Army Clothing Agency.....	0	10	0	from 1st June 1862 to 31st March 1863, Permanent.
Fort St George Gazette Press..	1	9	0	„ September 1863 to 17th May 1865, do.
Examiner P. W. Accounts....	0	9	0	„ 1st September 1865 to May 1866, Temporary (to be condoned.)
Do.	14	0	4	„ 1st June 1866 to 4th June 1880, Permanent.
Do.	0	3	0	Specially allowed by Govt. of India to complete short service.
	17	7	4	

He earnestly urges that he would be most seriously distressed, if what he now asks for is not conceded, after due consideration of his case, more especially as he simply craves the benefits which are provided for in the Financial Code for persons similarly situated in the unfortunate position in which your Grace's Memorialist now finds himself. Being deformed, he has always been obliged to employ a vehicle of some kind to take him to and from his place of business. To do this would be impracticable now under his present altered circumstances, seeing that he is advancing in age, and infirmities are increasing upon him in consequence; thus his vision is becoming more impaired and other physical defects commensurate with age, are slowly and steadily marking him out in debility, and want of tenacity for continuous physical exertion, further induced by severe privations from inadequate means of support, and protracted impecunious circumstances, having a large growing family consisting of 7 daughters, a wife and a widowed mother-in-law dependent on him for their present and *future* maintenance; these with himself, will be hopelessly plunged into absolute poverty, and inevitable ruin and destitution; and it is with this forecast of such a prospect, that he humbly ventures earnestly and confidently to implore the Government *mercifully* to shield him from any misconstruction of his claims, as a faithful servant of the State, and vouchsafe to him such adequate protection as the concessions adverted to in Financial Resolution of the Government of India, No 2079, P. W. D., dated 31st July 1879, will consistently admit of in consideration of his services and the encouragement thereby held out which induced him to accept the alternative of retirement.

9. Commending this respectful appeal to your generous and humane consideration, and as in duty bound he will ever pray.

Sgd/ W. B. Laughlin

Late Accountant, Office of Examiner P. W. Accounts.

MADRAS,
10th June 1880.

TESTIMONIALS.

7th November 1856.

MR. LAUGHLAN,

The Secretary grants you a gratuity of a month's pay, *i. e.* 42 Rs., as a reward for your attention to business, and hopes it will be an incentive to correct performance for the future of your duties as it is an earnest of his disposition to reward desert.

(Signed) A. H. H. (Signed) J. C. WILKINSON.

MADRAS MILITARY MALE ORPHAN ASYLUM, No. 150.

This is to certify that William A. Laughlan is permitted to leave the Institution from this date for the purpose of being employed as a Clerk at the Military Male Orphan Asylum Press.

Admitted into the School on the 6th day of April 1849.

Discharged this 13th day of August 1853.

Character during the above period—Good, which I certify.

(Signed) A. H. HOPE,
Secretary.

MADRAS,
28*th July* 1858.

By order of the Governors,

(Signed) A. H. HOPE,
Secretary.

MADRAS, 15*th September* 1859.

It gives me great pleasure to certify to the integrity and aptitude for business which six years' knowledge enables me to do of Mr. W. A. Laughlan, Clerk Asylum Press.

(Signed) A. H. HOPE, Captain,
3rd M. L. Cavalry.

MADRAS, *February* 25*th*, 1860.

LAUGHLAN,

Consequent on my proceeding to China I have given over charge of the Male Asylum Press to Captain Drury. I cannot however leave Madras without recording and also intimating to you how very satisfied I have been as to the manner in which you have conducted your duties since my assuming the office of Secretary to the Asylum in September last. You have proved yourself well worthy of the praise bestowed upon you by Captain Hope.

Your duties at the Press are arduous and demand constant attention and considerable method, and I can conscientiously affirm that I have never met with your equal among persons of your position.

(Signed) J. W. RIDEOUT.

William Alexander Laughlan, Head Clerk to the Male Asylum Press, has conducted the duty of his Department to my entire satisfaction during the period I have officiated as Secretary to the Male Orphan Asylum.

MADRAS,
7*th May* 1860.

(Signed) C. H. DRURY, Captain,
27th Regt. N. I.

MADRAS, 11*th February* 1861.

MR. LAUGHLAN,

I thank you much for your letter of this day's date, and the kindly wishes it conveys. I am sorry to hear that you are at present out of employ, but trust it may not be for long,

your industrious and business-like habits, would I should think, fully prevent such a misfortune.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) GEO. TALBOT, Colonel.

MADRAS, 10*th December* 1861.

The Bearer, Mr. Laughlan, has served as Mess Writer of the 34th L. I. since February last. He is intelligent and careful in the conduct of his duties and has in general given the Officers every satisfaction.

(Signed) A. C. SILVER,
Commanding 34th Lt. Infy.

MADRAS, 30*th April* 1863.

This is to certify that owing to a reclassification of the Office Establishment of the Madras Clothing Agency under the authority of Government, Mr. Laughlan who has been in the Department since June 1862 has been thrown out of employment.

I regret this, as Mr. Laughlan has always been attentive, and industrious, while in this department.

He was employed on a salary of Rs. 75 per mensem which he has lost from no fault of his own, and I hope this Certificate will soon enable him to obtain other employment.

(Signed) A. C. SILVER, Lt-Col.,
Superintendent and Agent for Army Clothing.

Certified that Mr. Laughlan, appointed by me as Accountant in the Government Press, conducted his duties to my satisfaction, while I was his official superior.

Mr. Laughlan is I believe a good Accountant, and if his health permits him, well able for a higher appointment, though the Account Work in the Press if properly done is no sinecure.

MERCARA,
December 1864. } (Signed) W. H. KERR, C. S.

Mr. W. A. Laughlan was employed as Accountant of the Government Printing Establishment, Fort St. George, from September 1863 to May 1865, and performed his duties with ability and zeal. He was dismissed under the orders of Government for having taken the benefit of the Insolvent Act.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
20*th July* 1865. } (Signed) H. SMITH,
Superintendent Govt. Printing Press.

Mr. W. A. Loughlan was employed in the Government Press at the time of my taking charge in July 1864, as Accountant; and I believe I am only doing him justice in stating that the accounts in his hands were well and punctually kept. His insolvency caused his suspension, shortly before I took leave in April last, and I now find that Government declined to reinstate him.

I have never had reason to find any fault with him and should be glad to hear of his obtaining suitable employment.

(Signed) C. G. WALKER,
July 25, 1865. *Under-Secretary to Government.*

Read Letter from Mr. Laughlan to W. H. Kerr, Esquire, Superintendent of Coorg.

Answer thereto dated Coorg, 21st August 1864.

MR. LAUGHLAN.

The best testimonal you can get as to the way in which you have performed your duties as Accountant in the Press will be the Auditor's Report. To the best of my knowledge you kept the accounts well and correctly while I was Supervisor, and you certainly kept them neatly and had them always written up to date; but until I know the result of the Auditor's examination I cannot say more. I shall be glad of course to hear of your getting on and getting higher pay, but I must say that I should not feel myself justified in supporting the application which you tell me you are going to make; and if you take my advice you will not make it at least at present.

* * * * *

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) W. H. KERR.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Department, dated 21*st September* 1865.

From J. MACKEY, Esquire, Auditor of the Press Accounts; to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 30th July 1864.

* * * * *

Paragraph 13. From all that I have seen I believe the Press Accounts to be faithfully kept by Mr. W. A. Laughlan, the Accountant.

(True copy.)

(Signed) W. A. LAUGHLIN.

No. 1810 of 1865.

The Government have no objection to the re-employment of Mr. Laughlan in the Public Service.

FORT SAINT GEORGE, 22*nd August* 1865.
(By order.)

(Signed) C. G. WALKER,
Under-Secretary to Government.

Read Letter from Mr. W. A. Laughlan to S. Brock, Esq., Controller, P. W. Accounts, Madras, dated 20th February 1869.

Answer thereto.

I will bear Mr. Laughlan's case in mind, and, if a suitable opportunity offer, will certainly place him in a better position in the office.

(Signed) S. BROCK.

Read Letter from Mr. W. A. Laughlan to S. Brock, Esq., Controller, P. W. Accounts, Madras, dated 1st July 1869.

Answer thereto.

Very well. I know Mr. Laughlan to be really a hard working man.

(Signed) S. BROCK.

Has made himself useful in the office, he is a good accountant and regular in his attendance in office.

17*th September* 1867. (Signed) J. F. FISHER,
Captain, R. E.

He has continued to be steady, attentive, and satisfactory in the performance of his duties.

28*th May* 1868. (Signed) P. P. L. O'CONNEL,
Lt.-Col., R. E.

An intelligent steady man in whom I have always felt an interest. He applies himself to his work with energy, and as Sub-Auditor in the 1st Division has given very great satisfaction. It was my intention, if the scheme submitted to Government in my letter No. 2525, dated 29-1-73, had been sanctioned before my relief, to have given Mr. Laughlan the audit of one of the small Districts.

April 1873. (Signed) S. BROCK.

Duplicate

To

His Excellency

The Right Honorable W. Hudleston

Councillor of the Empress,

Governor and President in Council,

Fort Saint George.

The humble petition of WILLIAM ALEXANDER LAUGHLIN, *late Accountant, Examiner's Office, Public Works Department.*

Enc 2.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That your Excellency's Petitioner while acknowledging the receipt of Government Orders marginally noted would humbly and very respectfully express his sincere and heartfelt gratitude to His Excellency the Governor, the Members of Council and other High Officials of State, for the grant of a Compensation Pension of Twenty-Six Rupees a month. Petitioner would however most deferentially beg to state that he is entitled by the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department Resolution No. 2079, P. W. D., dated 31st July 1879, to *an Average Pension for service above ten years*, and *a bonus of twelve months' salary*. The following reasons will fully explain Petitioner's eligibility to the concessions stated above.

G. O. No. 2052, W., P. W. D., dated 30th August 1880.
G. O. No. 1120, Pension Department, dated 22nd November 1880.
G. O. No. 267, Pension Department, dated 8th March 1881.

(1.) That Petitioner was entertained in the Accounts Branch of the Public Works Department on the 1st September 1865, as an Accountant (vide Reports of the Officers under whom Petitioner served, and his testimonials annexed.) In this capacity, he audited the accounts of 3 Districts, of 15 Ranges or Divisions, (often single-handed) and, from press of work, at his leisure hours, in order to meet the pressing exigencies

G. O. No. 2361, P. W. D., dated 14th Aug. 1865.
G. O. No. 1578, P. W. D., dated 6th June 1866.

Letter of Contr. para. 7 in G. O. No. 2361 P. W. D., dated 14th August 1865.
Do 2 in ,, 2379 ,, 21st ,, 1874.
Do 3+6 in ,, 947 ,, 11th Apl. ,,

of the State. This fact is borne out by references marginally quoted.

(2.) That your Petitioner was *specially selected* from the staff of Accountants and Clerks, with *eleven* others, and after trial, he was declared eligible for exemption from the Entrance Examination, and *thus* entitled to being on the Graded list of the Government of India,—vide G. O. No. 3,578 dated 11th September 1878, directing the Examiner to submit a list of Accountants eligible for exemption and gradation; with the Examiner's Letter No. 116A, to the Accountant General P. W. D. dated 4th October 1878, forwarding the list; and likewise his reply thereto dated 25th December 1878, sanctioning the same, which is dated so far back as *eighteen months* prior to Petitioner's retirement from the service. Further, were the privileges attaching to this grade applied, Petitioner would now be entitled to the enhanced emoluments of Presidency Allowance and House Rent, which amount to *Rupees Five hundred and ten*, for a Fourth Grade Accountant referred to in para. 6 of his previous petition.

(3.) That Petitioner promptly complied with the conditions of service required per Examiner's Circular No. 40 of 1876, paras. 2 and 3, humbly expecting meanwhile that after signing a *Covenant*, and electing for general service, the Examiner would be pleased to favorably notice Petitioner's claims to a fulfilment on his part of the obligations of the *contract* made with Petitioner. That Officer was frequently called upon by Government to grade the Accountants, but this was unfortunately allowed to remain in *statu quo*, during Petitioner's tenure of office. It is, Petitioner submits, his firm conviction, that were Major L. Conway-Gordon, R. E., present at the time to carry out the reductions in the Accounts Branch of the P. W. D., the Controller would have graded the *3 exempted men*, and also admitted them to the advantages, equally with one of their number subsequently graded, and who retired with concessions therein held out. By paragraph 21, of the Madras Public Works Code of 1877, the Controller is vested with such power and therefore he promoted a subordinate, (a mere "Reference Picker," who never had the manipulation of accounts) to a *Fifth*

grade Accountantship, and who, after drawing the salary of the grade with its emoluments, namely Presidency Allowance and House Rent for a month, was remanded to his original position, presumedly, Petitioner humbly thinks, from the fact of his being nothing more than a mere Clerk throughout the whole course of his service, and this supposition was afterwards found to be a fact, and therefore if a Clerk could have been exempted it would seem a matter of omission on the part of Major Conway-Gordon in not having graded *bonâ fide* Accountants that have 18 months previously specially been exempted by the Accountant General P. W. D., and thus pronounced to be Accountants eligible to all the privileges attached to that grade. It will thus be seen that the concessions granted to Accountants by the Government of India were withheld not because that the Petitioner was not considered an Accountant but simply because Major Conway-Gordon for reasons that he could best explain failed to grade the 12 men pronounced to be Accountants by the Accountant General P. W. D., at the time of that Officer's communication or 18 months prior to the retirement of Petitioner. The Government will no doubt be pleased to consider the loss that has been sustained by the neglectful act of a superior Officer and also a right which the Petitioner has a claim to rectification at the hands of Government considering that he has fulfilled all the conditions required of an Accountant though not by any fault of his own he has been denied the mere formality of being graded.

(4.) Petitioner begs to submit, that prior to 1876, the Local Government published a Gradation List of their P. W. D. subordinates annually, including both Executive and Accounts Branch, in which they have been regularly exhibited in *classified* grades of Overseers, Accountants and Clerks, and promotions, &c., therein were invariably sanctioned accordingly. This list, however, was distinct from that maintained by the Government of India hitherto. An employé once borne on the Government of India's List of Accountants, notwithstanding his having left that service for many years was subsequently entertained in other departments locally, and at last being admitted

into the Accounts Branch of the P. W. D. of this Presidency was held *ipse de facto* an Accountant by Major L. Conway-Gordon, R.E., and drew the arrears of house rent and permitted to retire with all the privileges accruing to this class of subordinates under the Government of India's Resolution thereon. Petitioner would therefore humbly beg that Madras Accountants on their once recognized status and particularly those who have been regularly and bonâ fide employed upon the legitimate duties of Accountants, and *specially exempted* from the entrance examination, and who were also *defacto* and *dejure* Accountants, be uniformly held likewise amenable to the concessions granted to Accountants and Upper Subordinates in other Provinces, but denied only to the local *ungraded* Accountants, while it is allowed to their confreres, the Overseers of the P. W. D. of this Presidency. The Resolution noted above makes no distinction between Accountant and *graded* Accountant, as your Excellency will perceive.

2. That under a misconstruction, vide para. 1 of the tabular statement printed with G. O. No. 2052, W., P. W. D. dated 30th August 1880, a period of *Eleven months' service* in the Army Clothing Agency Department has been thrown out. But Petitioner humbly begs to submit that this service is allowed and qualifies for pension, as a *re-classification* of the Office Establishment alone debarred this claim and by nothing prejudicial to his position and prospects as a public servant,—see testimonial granted to Petitioner by the Superintendent and Agent for Army Clothing.

3. That humbly relying that his case will be graciously viewed in a just, charitable and favourable light after perusal of the Official papers bearing on the Madras Accountants, and on which documents your Petitioner has founded his claims, he trusts your Excellency will consider him an arduous, zealous and faithful servant deserving of the claims hereunder set forth.

I. Average Pension and Bonus.

II. Presidency Allowance and House Rent, and

III. Eleven Months' Service qualifying for pension. And Petitioner as in duty bound Will Ever Pray.

MADRAS,
31st May 1881.

W. A. Laughlin,
Late Accountant, P. W. D.

The humble petition of
William Alexander
Laughlin, late Accountant,
Examiner's Office, P. Works Dep.t
To
His Excellency, the
Governor and President
in Council,
Fort St. George.

Dated 31st May 1881.
Received

Petitioner prays for an
average pension for Service
above ten years, and a
bonus of twelve months'
salary, and eleven months
qualifying service for pension &c.
and in support of his
prayer quotes Government
of India Finance & Commerce
Department Resolution
No. 2079, P.W.D., 31st July 79
Meanwhile with great
gratitude heartily thanks
His Excellency in Council
for Compensation grant
of Twenty-six Rs. a month.
Sets forth certain official
documents & papers proving
good service, conduct, &
zeal in the Service of Govt.
& Humbly relies on His
Excellency in Council
for a charitable view
of his Case.

To be Substituted for my Letter to the Chief Secretary to Government in the Pension Department, dated 28th May 1880.

To

The Most Noble Richard Plantagenet Campbell,
Temple Nugent Brydges Chandos Grenville,
Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
Councillor of the Empress, G.C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Governor and President in Council, &c. &c.
Fort St. George.

The humble petition of W. A. LAUGHLIN,
late Accountant, Public Works Department.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That he be allowed to forward the following for submission to your Grace in the fervent hope that it will meet with a deliberate and just consideration as his convictions lead him to infer that he is claiming nothing but what is just and right under the Orders of Government, without appealing for an extenuation or attaching any undue significance thereto, now that he is thrown out of employment under the Financial Resolution of the Government of India, No. 2079, P. W. D., dated 31st July 1879, and that his services hereunder set forth may be properly reckoned for pensionary provision.

2. That your Petitioner served in the Army Clothing Agency Department for a period of 10 months as an Accountant on a salary of Rs. 75 per mensem, from 1st June 1862 to 31st March 1863, and owing to a re-classification of the Office Establishment under the Orders of Government, in the Military Department, No. 1372, dated 27th April 1863, he was unfortunately thrown out of employment, for no fault of his own. The manner in which he conducted his onerous and arduous duties was favourably brought to the special notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief—*Vide* letter of the Superintendent and Agent for Army Clothing, No. 1521, dated 5th July 1862, to the Deputy Adjutant General, H. M.'s British Forces, paras. 3, 4, and 5, and also to his letter No. 2442, dated 18th August 1862.

3. That in September 1863, he was specially selected by Sir Alexander John Arbuthnot, Chief, and William Hobart Kerr, Esquire, Under, Secretaries to Government, amongst upwards of 200 applicants to fill the appointment of Head Accountant in the Office of the Government Press, on a salary of Rs. 60 per mensem, which he held till 17th May 1865, embracing a period of 1 year and 9 months' service, from which he was unhappily removed under the Orders of Government in the Public Department, No. 305 dated 22nd March 1865, and No. 513, dated 17th May 1865, for having availed himself of the benefit of the Insolvent Act. The Government have, however, been graciously pleased in Order No. 1810 of 1865, to declare that, "The Government have no objection to the re-employment of Mr. Laughlin in the Public Service."

4. With reference to the above Order, No 1810 of 1865, he would deferentially beg to submit that he is led to infer that his previous Service, was in no way affected so as to prejudice his claims in counting the above service of 1 year and 9 months, and also, that of 10

Cir 8/60 25 Jn 1881

months in the Army Clothing Agency Department towards the usual reckoning for a pensionary grant, and, it is confidently hoped that, a paternal Government will liberally concede this boon to him, under Note 2, of Section 56 of the Civil Pension Code.

5. In connection with the foregoing circumstances, he begs to submit that he was entertained as a Temporary Accountant in the Office of the Controller of P. W. Accounts on 1st September 1865, and held this till May 1866, making in all a total period of 9 months :—the services of this batch were in due course dispensed with, and the Temporary Establishment which was employed was now invested into a permanent footing, and amongst this number he obtained a tangible position on a salary of 40 Rs. per mensem there being no intermission in his service in the Temporary Establishment and that of his being taken on permanently when the revised scale came in force; he would therefore, most humbly beg that this temporary tenure of 9 months' service, may now be formally condoned under section 57 (*b*) of the Civil Pension Code by a liberal and just Government so that his whole service shall be considered as continuous service rendered in one and the same Office up to date of retirement, namely, 18th March 1880, qualifying for pension.

Vide G. O. No. 2,361, dated 14th August 1865 and G. O., No. 1,578 dated 6th June 1866.

6. In conclusion he most humbly and very respectfully craves the indulgent consideration of a *benign* Government, to the hardships he has undergone in the *deprivation* of advantages so liberally allowed to Graded Accountants, on their retirement, under the Financial Resolution of the Government of India referred to in para. 1 *supra* on the subject of *average pensions for service above* 10 *years and a bonus of* 12 *month's salary*. It was his misfortune not to have been graded prior to retirement, to afford scope for enjoying these advantages; although he was one of the number (12), specially recommended by the late Controller P. W. Accounts, Major L. Conway Gordon, R. E. *for exemption* by the Accountant General, P. W. D., from passing the P. W. Entrance Examination, which concession was readily acceded to *eighteen months ago*; under Section 216, Public Works Code; and were Major Conway-Gordon here to carry out the reductions in the Accounts Branch of the P. W. D., he feels sure that, in due appreciation of merit and from a sense of justice, and since he was virtually an Accountant throughout the whole course of his service under Government, as copies of his Testimonials, herewith attached, sufficiently indicate, as also, the classified annual lists of Establishment of the Public Works Department printed under the authority of Government have exhibited certain individuals as Accountants of Grades, and others as Clerks for several years past, until recently, he would in all probability have been graded by the Examiner (vide para. 21 of the Madras P. W. Code of 1877) and permitted to retire as a Graded Accountant in common with another subordinate similarly exempted, but who had the good fortune to have been graded in time and is now the lucky recipient of the advantages which he is thus deprived of, simply from being latterly designated a Clerk, *although specially recommended for exemption as an Accountant by Major Gordon himself, and he having complied with the requirements laid down in his Circular No.* 40 *of* 1876, *paras.* 2 *and* 3, *by which it will be seen that he was entitled to certain allowances as follows.* It is respectfully suggested that a concession in his favor under the terms of India's Resolution of July 1879, will not be a precedence for many another similar case, for of those *exempted* only 5 (five) have been retired including the Accountant just referred to.

Vide G. O. No. 3578 W., dated 11th Sept. 1878, directing the Examiner to submit a list of the Accountants eligible for exemption and gradation, and the Examiner's letter to the Accountant General, P. W. D., No. 116A, dated 4th October 1878, forwarding that list with the Accountant General's reply thereto dated 25th December 1878, approving and sanctioning the said list.

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Presidency allowance from April 1879 to 18th March 1880 at 30 Rs. per mensem (about 12 months)...	360
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making a total of about Rs. 510 which he has also been deprived of and has not been recouped for it up to date, although mere lads with no official experience have fully benefitted by this

ruling in exception, and to the disadvantage of their seniors in office. This concession, he fervently begs will also be viewed with due consideration and justly awarded to him in this time of urgent need by a liberal Government from the fact that, notwithstanding their oft-repeated calls on the Examiner to have the Accountants graded it is presumed, that such requests were not complied with: he begs therefore that the above will have due and consistent weight in the matter of this appeal as affecting his average pension, and which if denied will also affect his future prospects in life.

7. Regretting these drawbacks it is due to the indefatigable exertions, and humane generous sympathies of Major D. H. Trail, R. E., Examiner P. W. A., that, however led to a *partial* consideration of 3 months' pay as a bonus being sanctioned at the hands of a paternal Government for all—some of whom were actually Accountants, while others were *boná fide* clerks.

Government of Madras Pension Dept., No. 267, dated 30th March 1880.

8. Lest the above explanation should not be considered clear enough, and in order to present the extent of his services in a more compact form, he begs to subjoin the following abstract of his services :—

	Y.	M.	D.	
Army Clothing Agency.....	0	10	0	from 1st June 1862 to 31st March 1863, Permanent.
Fort St George Gazette Press..	1	9	0	„ September 1863 to 17th May 1865, do.
Examiner P. W. Accounts....	0	9	0	„ 1st September 1865 to May 1866, Temporary (to be condoned.)
Do.	14	0	4	„ 1st June 1866 to 4th June 1880, Permanent.
Do.	0	3	0	Specially allowed by Govt. of India to complete short service.
	17	7	4	

He earnestly urges that he would be most seriously distressed, if what he now asks for is not conceded, after due consideration of his case, more especially as he simply craves the benefits which are provided for in the Financial Code for persons similarly situated in the unfortunate position in which your Grace's Memorialist now finds himself. Being deformed, he has always been obliged to employ a vehicle of some kind to take him to and from his place of business. To do this would be impracticable now under his present altered circumstances, seeing that he is advancing in age, and infirmities are increasing upon him in consequence; thus his vision is becoming more impaired and other physical defects commensurate with age, are slowly and steadily marking him out in debility, and want of tenacity for continuous physical exertion, further induced by severe privations from inadequate means of support, and protracted impecunious circumstances, having a large growing family consisting of 7 daughters, a wife and a widowed mother-in-law dependent on him for their present and *future* maintenance; these with himself, will be hopelessly plunged into absolute poverty, and inevitable ruin and destitution; and it is with this forecast of such a prospect, that he humbly ventures earnestly and confidently to implore the Government *mercifully* to shield him from any misconstruction of his claims, as a faithful servant of the State, and vouchsafe to him such adequate protection as the concessions adverted to in Financial Resolution of the Government of India, No 2079, P. W. D., dated 31st July 1879, will consistently admit of in consideration of his services and the encouragement thereby held out which induced him to accept the alternative of retirement.

9. Commending this respectful appeal to your generous and humane consideration, and as in duty bound he will ever pray.

Sig[d] W. A. Laughlin

Late Accountant, Office of
Examiner P. W. Accounts.

MADRAS,
10 June 1880.

P.W. 3340/4/81

TESTIMONIALS.

7th November 1856.

MR. LAUGHLAN,

The Secretary grants you a gratuity of a month's pay, *i. e.* 42 Rs., as a reward for your attention to business, and hopes it will be an incentive to correct performance for the future of your duties as it is an earnest of his disposition to reward desert.

(Signed) A. H. H. (Signed) J. C. WILKINSON.

MADRAS MILITARY MALE ORPHAN ASYLUM, No. 150.

This is to certify that William A. Laughlan is permitted to leave the Institution from this date for the purpose of being employed as a Clerk at the Military Male Orphan Asylum Press.

Admitted into the School on the 6th day of April 1849.

Discharged this 13th day of August 1853.

Character during the above period—Good, which I certify.

MADRAS, 28*th July* 1858. } (Signed) A. H. HOPE, *Secretary.*

By order of the Governors,

(Signed) A. H. HOPE, *Secretary.*

MADRAS, 15*th September* 1859.

It gives me great pleasure to certify to the integrity and aptitude for business which six years' knowledge enables me to do of Mr. W. A. Laughlan, Clerk Asylum Press.

(Signed) A. H. HOPE, Captain,
3rd M. L. Cavalry.

LAUGHLAN, MADRAS, *February 25th*, 1860.

Consequent on my proceeding to China I have given over charge of the Male Asylum Press to Captain Drury. I cannot however leave Madras without recording and also intimating to you how very satisfied I have been as to the manner in which you have conducted your duties since my assuming the office of Secretary to the Asylum in September last. You have proved yourself well worthy of the praise bestowed upon you by Captain Hope.

Your duties at the Press are arduous and demand constant attention and considerable method, and I can conscientiously affirm that I have never met with your equal among persons of your position.

(Signed) J. W. RIDEOUT.

William Alexander Laughlan, Head Clerk to the Male Asylum Press, has conducted the duty of his Department to my entire satisfaction during the period I have officiated as Secretary to the Male Orphan Asylum.

MADRAS, 7*th May* 1860. } (Signed) C. H. DRURY, Captain,
27th Regt. N. I.

MR. LAUGHLAN, MADRAS, 11*th February* 1861.

I thank you much for your letter of this day's date, and the kindly wishes it conveys. I am sorry to hear that you are at present out of employ, but trust it may not be for long,

your industrious and business-like habits, would I should think, fully prevent such a misfortune.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) GEO. TALBOT, Colonel.

MADRAS, 10*th December* 1861.

The Bearer, Mr. Laughlan, has served as Mess Writer of the 34th L. I. since February last. He is intelligent and careful in the conduct of his duties and has in general given the Officers every satisfaction.

(Signed) A. C. SILVER,
Commanding 34th Lt. Infy.

MADRAS, 30*th April* 1863.

This is to certify that owing to a reclassification of the Office Establishment of the Madras Clothing Agency under the authority of Government, Mr. Laughlan who has been in the Department since June 1862 has been thrown out of employment.

I regret this, as Mr. Laughlan has always been attentive, and industrious, while in this department.

He was employed on a salary of Rs. 75 per mensem which he has lost from no fault of his own, and I hope this Certificate will soon enable him to obtain other employment.

(Signed) A. C. SILVER, Lt-Col.,
Superintendent and Agent for Army Clothing.

Certified that Mr. Laughlan, appointed by me as Accountant in the Government Press, conducted his duties to my satisfaction, while I was his official superior.

Mr. Laughlan is I believe a good Accountant, and if his health permits him, well able for a higher appointment, though the Account Work in the Press if properly done is no sinecure.

MERCARA,
December 1864.

(Signed) W. H. KERR, C. S.

Mr. W. A. Laughlan was employed as Accountant of the Government Printing Establishment, Fort St. George, from September 1863 to May 1865, and performed his duties with ability and zeal. He was dismissed under the orders of Government for having taken the benefit of the Insolvent Act.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
20*th July* 1865.

(Signed) H. SMITH,
Superintendent Govt. Printing Press.

Mr. W. A. Loughlan was employed in the Government Press at the time of my taking charge in July 1864, as Accountant; and I believe I am only doing him justice in stating that the accounts in his hands were well and punctually kept. His insolvency caused his suspension, shortly before I took leave in April last, and I now find that Government declined to reinstate him.

I have never had reason to find any fault with him and should be glad to hear of his obtaining suitable employment.

July 25, 1865.

(Signed) C. G. WALKER,
Under-Secretary to Government.

Read Letter from Mr. Laughlan to W. H. Kerr, Esquire, Superintendent of Coorg.

MR. LAUGHLAN. Answer thereto dated Coorg, 21st August 1864.

The best testimonal you can get as to the way in which you have performed your duties as Accountant in the Press will be the Auditor's Report. To the best of my knowledge you kept the accounts well and correctly while I was Supervisor, and you certainly kept them

neatly and had them always written up to date; but until I know the result of the Auditor's examination I cannot say more. I shall be glad of course to hear of your getting on and getting higher pay, but I must say that I should not feel myself justified in supporting the application which you tell me you are going to make; and if you take my advice you will not make it at least at present.

* * * * *

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) W. H. KERR.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Department, dated 21*st September* 1865.

From J. MACKEY, Esquire, Auditor of the Press Accounts; to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 30th July 1864.

* * * * *

Paragraph 13. From all that I have seen I believe the Press Accounts to be faithfully kept by Mr. W. A. Laughlan, the Accountant.

(True copy.)

(Signed) W. A. LAUGHLIN.

No. 1810 of 1865.

The Government have no objection to the re-employment of Mr. Laughlan in the Public Service.

FORT SAINT GEORGE, 22*nd August* 1865.

(By order.)

(Signed) C. G. WALKER,
Under-Secretary to Government.

Read Letter from Mr. W. A. Laughlan to S. Brock, Esq., Controller, P. W. Accounts, Madras, dated 20th February 1869. Answer thereto.

I will bear Mr. Laughlan's case in mind, and, if a suitable opportunity offer, will certainly place him in a better position in the office.

(Signed) S. BROCK.

Read Letter from Mr. W. A. Laughlan to S. Brock, Esq., Controller, P. W. Accounts, Madras, dated 1st July 1869. Answer thereto.

Very well. I know Mr. Laughlan to be really a hard working man.

(Signed) S. BROCK.

Has made himself useful in the office, he is a good accountant and regular in his attendance in office.

17*th September* 1867.

(Signed) J. F. FISHER,
Captain, R. E.

He has continued to be steady, attentive, and satisfactory in the performance of his duties.

28*th May* 1868.

(Signed) P. P. L. O'CONNEL,
Lt.-Col., R. E.

An intelligent steady man in whom I have always felt an interest. He applies himself to his work with energy, and as Sub-Auditor in the 1st Division has given very great satisfaction. It was my intention, if the scheme submitted to Government in my letter No. 2525, dated 29-1-73, had been sanctioned before my relief, to have given Mr. Laughlan the audit of one of the small Districts.

April 1873.

(Signed) S. BROCK.

P.W. 3240/3/81

81

Triplicate

To

His Excellency
The Right Honorable W. Hudleston
Councillor of the Empress.
Governor and President in Council,
Fort Saint George.

The humble petition of WILLIAM ALEXANDER LAUGHLIN, late Accountant, Examiner's Office, Public Works Department.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

Enc 2.

That your Excellency's Petitioner while acknowledging the receipt of Government Orders marginally noted would humbly and very respectfully express his sincere and heartfelt gratitude to His Excellency the Governor, the Members of Council and other High Officials of State, for the grant of a Compensation Pension of Twenty-Six Rupees a month. Petitioner would however most deferentially beg to state that he is entitled by the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department Resolution No. 2079, P. W. D., dated 31st July 1879, to *an Average Pension for service above ten years*, and *a bonus of twelve months' salary*. The following reasons will fully explain Petitioner's eligibility to the concessions stated above.

G. O. No. 2052, W., P. W. D., dated 30th August 1880.
G. O. No. 1120, Pension Department, dated 22nd November 1880.
G. O. No. 267, Pension Department, dated 8th March 1881.

Encl. not found
Encl. not found

(1.) That Petitioner was entertained in the Accounts Branch of the Public Works Department on the 1st September 1865, as an Accountant (vide Reports of the Officers under whom Petitioner served, and his testimonials annexed.) In this capacity, he audited the accounts of 3 Districts, of 15 Ranges or Divisions, (often single-handed) and, from press of work, at his leisure hours, in order to meet the pressing exigencies

1788

G. O. No. 2361, P. W. D., dated 14th Aug. 1865.
G. O. No. 1573, P. W. D., dated 6th June 1866.

Letter of Contr. para. 7 in G. O. No. 2361 P. W. D., dated 14th August 1865.
Do 2 in ,, 2379 ,, 21st ,, 1874,
Do 3 + 6 in ,, 947 ,, 11th Apl. ,,

of the State. This fact is borne out by references marginally quoted.

(2.) That your Petitioner was *specially selected* from the staff of Accountants and Clerks, with *eleven* others, and after trial, he was declared eligible for exemption from the Entrance Examination, and *thus* entitled to being on the Graded list of the Government of India,—vide G. O. No. 3,578 dated 11th September 1878, directing the Examiner to submit a list of Accountants eligible for exemption and gradation; with the Examiner's Letter No. 116A, to the Accountant General P. W. D. dated 4th October 1878, forwarding the list; and likewise his reply thereto dated 25th December 1878, sanctioning the same, which is dated so far back as *eighteen months* prior to Petitioner's retirement from the service. Further, were the privileges attaching to this grade applied, Petitioner would now be entitled to the enhanced emoluments of Presidency Allowance and House Rent, which amount to *Rupees Five hundred and ten*, for a Fourth Grade Accountant referred to in para. 6 of his previous petition.

(3.) That Petitioner promptly complied with the conditions of service required per Examiner's Circular No. 40 of 1876, paras. 2 and 3, humbly expecting meanwhile that after signing a *Covenant*, and electing for general service, the Examiner would be pleased to favorably notice Petitioner's claims to a fulfilment on his part of the obligations of the *contract* made with Petitioner. That Officer was frequently called upon by Government to grade the Accountants, but this was unfortunately allowed to remain in *statu quo*, during Petitioner's tenure of office. It is, Petitioner submits, his firm conviction, that were Major L. Conway-Gordon, R. E., present at the time to carry out the reductions in the Accounts Branch of the P. W. D., the Controller would have graded the *3 exempted men*, and also admitted them to the advantages, equally with one of their number subsequently graded, and who retired with concessions therein held out. By paragraph 21, of the Madras Public Works Code of 1877, the Controller is vested with such power and therefore he promoted a subordinate, (a mere "Reference Picker," who never had the manipulation of accounts) to a *Fifth*

grade Accountantship, and who, after drawing the salary of the grade with its emoluments, namely Presidency Allowance and House Rent for a month, was remanded to his original position, presumedly, Petitioner humbly thinks, from the fact of his being nothing more than a mere Clerk throughout the whole course of his service, and this supposition was afterwards found to be a fact, and therefore if a Clerk could have been exempted it would seem a matter of omission on the part of Major Conway-Gordon in not having graded *bonâ fide* Accountants that have 18 months previously specially been exempted by the Accountant General P. W. D., and thus pronounced to be Accountants eligible to all the privileges attached to that grade. It will thus be seen that the concessions granted to Accountants by the Government of India were withheld not because that the Petitioner was not considered an Accountant but simply because Major Conway-Gordon for reasons that he could best explain failed to grade the 12 men pronounced to be Accountants by the Accountant General P. W. D., at the time of that Officer's communication or 18 months prior to the retirement of Petitioner. The Government will no doubt be pleased to consider the loss that has been sustained by the neglectful act of a superior Officer and also a right which the Petitioner has a claim to rectification at the hands of Government considering that he has fulfilled all the conditions required of an Accountant though not by any fault of his own he has been denied the mere formality of being graded.

(4.) Petitioner begs to submit, that prior to 1876, the Local Government published a Gradation List of their P. W. D. subordinates annually, including both Executive and Accounts Branch, in which they have been regularly exhibited in *classified* grades of Overseers, Accountants and Clerks, and promotions, &c., therein were invariably sanctioned accordingly. This list, however was distinct from that maintained by the Government of India hitherto. An employé once borne on the Government of India's List of Accountants, notwithstanding his having left that service for many years was subsequently entertained in other departments locally, and at last being admitted

P.W. 3340/2/81

into the Accounts Branch of the P. W. D. of this Presidency was held *ipse de facto* an Accountant by Major L. Conway-Gordon, R.E., and drew the arrears of house rent and permitted to retire with all the privileges accruing to this class of subordinates under the Government of India's Resolution thereon. Petitioner would therefore humbly beg that Madras Accountants on their once recognized status and particularly those who have been regularly and bonâ fide employed upon the legitimate duties of Accountants, and *specially exempted* from the entrance examination, and who were also *defacto* and *dejure* Accountants, be uniformly held likewise amenable to the concessions granted to Accountants and Upper Subordinates in other Provinces, but denied only to the local *ungraded* Accountants, while it is allowed to their confreres, the Overseers of the P. W. D. of this Presidency. The Resolution noted above makes no distinction between Accountant and *graded* Accountant, as your Excellency will perceive.

2. That under a misconstruction, vide para. 1 of the tabular statement printed with G. O. No. 2052, W., P. W. D. dated 30th August 1880, a period of *Eleven months' service* in the Army Clothing Agency Department has been thrown out. But Petitioner humbly begs to submit that this service is allowed and qualifies for pension, as a *re-classification* of the Office Establishment alone debarred this claim and by nothing prejudicial to his position and prospects as a public servant,—see testimonial granted to Petitioner by the Superintendent and Agent for Army Clothing.

3. That humbly relying that his case will be graciously viewed in a just, charitable and favourable light after perusal of the Official papers bearing on the Madras Accountants, and on which documents your Petitioner has founded his claims, he trusts your Excellency will consider him an arduous, zealous and faithful servant deserving of the claims hereunder set forth.

I. Average Pension and Bonus.

II. Presidency Allowance and House Rent, and

III. Eleven Months' Service qualifying for pension. And Petitioner as in duty bound Will Ever Pray.

MADRAS,
31st May 1881.

W. A. Laughlin
Late Accountant, P. W. D.

P.W. 3340/81

The humble petition of William Alexander Laughlin late Accountant, Examiners Office, P.W.D.

To

His Excellency, the Governor & President in Council Fort Saint George.

Dated 31st May 1881.
Received

Petitioner prays for an average pension for service above ten years, and a bonus of twelve months salary, & eleven months' qualifying service for pension &c and in support of his prayer quotes Government of India Finand & Commerce Deptt. Resolution No. 2079, P.W.D., 31st July 1879. Meanwhile with great gratitude heartily thanks His Excellency in Council for Compensation grant of Twenty-Six Rupees a month. Puts forth certain official documents and papers proving good service, Conduct & zeal in the service of Government. Humbly relies on His Excellency in Council for a charitable view of his Case.

Petition from Mr. W.A. Laughlin
late Accountant
Examiners office
P.W. Deptt

Dated 31st May 1881.

TRANSFERRED to the Secretary to Government, P. W. Department.

(By order.)

A Kennedy Stevenson Major
Military Secretary.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Ootacamund
3rd June 1881.

G.O. No 1120 of 22nd June 1880
" " 2052 W of 30 August 1880 —
Mis No 323 W. of 12/2/80 X
" " 218 W. of 28/1/80 X
G.O No 3598 W of 11/9/78
" " 2900 W. 16/7/78
" " 2379 of 21-8-74
" " 947 of 11-4-74
" " 1788 of 6/6/66
" " 2261 of 14/8/65 —

P. W. C. No. 3340

(1881) DEPAR

From

THE Military SECRETARY
H. E.
TO THE RIGHT HON. THE GOVERNOR,

To

The SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
P. W. DEPARTMENT.

Dated 2nd
Recd. 6th } June 1881.

1536 W/81

ENCLOSURE 1-3-4

Subject.

Transfers a petition from W. A. Laughlin praying for pension & bonus.

G.O. 9-6-81 No. 20-6-81
P.S. 1/16.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINE... CIRCLE,

No 1556 W PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 22nd June 1881

Read the following :—

Endorsement from the Mily Secy to the Hon. the Govr, on Petn from Mr W. A. Laughlin, late Accountant, P.W.D — dy 31.5.81.

H.S. to — dy 3 June 1881.

All the requests now put forward by petitioner were fully considered and disposed of in G.O. No 2052 W dy 30 August 1880.

The Govt decline to re-open the case.

C.S.I.

C.C. Rawson
Secy
Actg
11/6/81

To The Petitioner
Dated 10/6/81