

wooden bridge, boats or passengers' boats; that a boat belonging to Machanwaru was carried away by current from Dowleswaru Anicut and by God's favor it reached to the shore of Bobbarlunka &c; that the European & Native Officials do not meet with such dangers and inconvenience like the poor people as they are supplied with the Engineering Steamers whenever they require them.

Pray therefore that petros! prayers may be taken into consideration & they be supplied with one of the 4 steamers in possession of the Engineer or a new steamer may be ordered at an early date & that the system of the Ferry auction may be cancelled.

7-7-87
No. 1890 W of 14th July/87
B
Petitioners are informed that Petitioners are informed that arrangements are being made to supply a new steamer for the Rajahmundry Ferry.

See 11/7/87
Petitioners
List
11/7/87
11/7/87
11/7/87

Pub. Works.
A joint
Kf
From Fred T. McCree
Amos Luther Mission
Pitambar Sing, Mirasahet,
& several others, Ferry passengers
of Rajahmundry,
Godaneri Distt.

No. 1890 W of 14th July/87
No.

Dated
Received 28-6-87
Enclosures 13-7-87

SUBJECT.
Praying for the supply of a steamer
in Godaneri for the passengers.

Indo 25/6/87
with order

Original

To

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY, VICTORIA,
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT
BRITAIN AND IRELAND,
QUEEN EMPRESS OF INDIA.
(THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.)

*The Humble Memorial of WILLIAM A. LAUGHLIN,
late Accountant, Fourth Grade, Office of Ex-
aminer of Public Works Accounts, Madras,
now a Government Pensioner residing at
No. 10, Lang's Gardens, Madras.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY.

That in profound thankfulness to Almighty God, for the noble sentiments of Your Most Gracious Majesty's sublime and inspired declaration, that in Your humble, poor and loyal subjects' (memorialist's) prosperity is Your Majesty's strength, in their contentment, Your Majesty's security, and in their heart-felt gratitude Your Majesty's great reward. Your Majesty's distressed, humble and poor suppliant, the son of an old "Waterloo" Soldier, whose late father hailed from County Armagh, Ireland, and Your Petitioner, an unfortunate *cripple*, begs leave to approach Your Majesty on his bended knees and submit his grievances, and he sincerely and fervently prays for redress, and for the long continuance of Your Majesty's auspicious and beneficent reign.

2. That in the above blessed assurance of his always possessing Your Sovereign Majesty's *Personal* sympathy and protection, Your Memorialist feels confident, that he will not fail to obtain justice at Your Most Gracious Majesty's merciful and compassionate hands. The just consideration due to his righteous claim equitably as an *Accountant of the Fourth Grade*, in virtue of his attested "Covenant," dated 25th July 1876, has been hitherto denied him whilst he was fairly entitled to an *average pension* and a *bonus of twelve months' salary* on his retirement from the Service. This "privilege" which was *proffered*, and on the strength of which inducement he *elected* in good faith to retire under the Government of India Resolution, No. 2079, P. W. D., dated 31st July 1879, has now unhappily been disallowed to him, after a faithful and zealous service of above *seventeen years* rendered to the State and in the evening of his life. In consequence of this injustice done him he has been obliged to draw the small pension of Rs. 26 (£ 2-12-0) assigned under the ordinary rules of the service to a "Clerk" (as such he was never considered) instead of the "Average" pension, *viz.*, Rs. 30-3-6 (£ 3-0-5½) which was granted to "all Accountants," which official status he had held, having discharged the duties of an Accountant throughout his service. The difference, namely, Rs. 4-3-6 (£ 0-8-5½), though a trivial sum, is a great loss which he deeply deploras, he having a family of *ten* souls to support. This concession, which he has equitably earned as a right, has been most cruelly and unjustly withheld from him, simply, "because he was not *formally* graded an Accountant" under the subsequent scheme. The "omission to grade" had arisen from no fault of his own, but was caused by a "wrongful act" and expressed *spiteful ill-feeling* entertained by Colonel Conway-Gordon, R. E., towards grading the Madras Accountants as hereinafter explained, when that Officer was the Examiner of Public Works Accounts.

3. That the several Orders of Government passed on his (14) petitions persistently maintained this view of his admittedly "very hard case," and on appeal to the Government of India, Colonel Filgate, R. E., raised the question as to "why Mr. Laughlin was not graded?" and requested to be favoured with a copy of the "Covenant" he signed (Memorialist should have *rightly* as "agreed upon" been graded on the 25th July 1876, in terms of paras. 2, 3, and 8 of Circular No. 40 of 1876, issued to him by the Examiner of Public Works Accounts "to accept service," attest an "Agreement," ENGAGING HIM AS A FOURTH GRADE ACCOUNTANT to serve in any place in British India, under Government Order, No. 878, dated the 4th April 1876, which inaugurated the formation in the Madras Presidency of a Separate "Accounts' Branch" which was afterwards incorporated with the "General Establishment List of Accountants, under the Government of India, sanctioned in their No. 1196 E. G., dated 30th August 1878," with reference to their Letter No. 32 E., dated 10th January 1878,) and irrespective of the subsequent "authorizations" to grade him, as cited in para. 6 *infra*. Mr. D. C. Gordon, Examiner, having all these facts before him, and seeing the mistake committed, reported "that he was unable to account for the omission to grade, and that his predecessor was responsible for it." Thereupon, and during Colonel Filgate's absence on leave, the Officiating Accountant-General, P. W. D., (Bengal) (Colonel Conway-Gordon, R. E.,) decided "that the Government of India see no reason to interfere with the decision of the Government of Madras on "Mr. Laughlin's case."

4. That from the Orders of Government issued on his several appeals from May 1880 to 5th February 1887, it is obviously clear that, if not intentionally, the Government have inadvertently overlooked the astounding fact, that the several Orders passed on the subject from the year 1876 to 28th January 1880, have emphatically authorized the Examiner "to grade him." One of the Orders forwarded to the Examiner demanded "a reason" if he was not already formally graded an Accountant, and is as follows:—GOVERNMENT ORDER, DATED 14TH MAY 1879, No. 36, "Please forward a list of men now employed in the Accounts' Branch who have been recommended to you for exemption from passing Examinations, entrance and other, showing in each case whether the individual named has been exempted, and whether he has been brought on the Graded List; if he has, in what grade, and if not, the reason why?" The last Order, issued on the 28th January 1880, (about 9 months afterwards,) No. 218 W., also, fully provided for the exceptional circumstances of his case, and again clearly "authorized his being at once graded, and permitted him to retire" with concessions under part (one) of Section 8 of the said Government Order, as it could not be said that there was "no room" for him on the reduced strength of the Establishment; his post thus rendered vacant was filled by an "Accountant of the Fourth Grade" (Mr. Telfer) from another Province, temporarily employed in this Presidency, on Famine Accounts, but four months after Memorialist's retirement he was wrongly classed a "Clerk" under its second clause, which treatment was most cruel and unjust to his claim as an "Accountant of the Fourth Grade," who had duly attested a "Covenant" as such, from the 25th July 1876 as was demanded of him.

5. That the delay on the part of the Examiner to grade him, for which "no reason" was assigned, clearly points to the fact of a "spiteful ill-feeling" having existed, and a "strong prejudice" having been entertained, as was subsequently displayed by Colonel Conway-Gordon, R. E., towards the grading by him of a certain subordinate, whose name was included in the "List of Madras Covenanted Accountants." This fact is now, for the first time, brought to official notice. Thus Your Majesty's Memorialist has been unjustly made to suffer as explained in para. 11 *infra*.

6. That the Madras Accountants had, by their fitness and intelligence in Accounts' duties, always earned for themselves a good Reputation from all previous Examiners of Public Works Accounts, and the Annual Reports made by Sir George Kellner and General George Chesney, R. E., to the Government of India, stated the fact "that the Public Works Accounts of the Madras Presidency had always "compared" most favorably with those of

"other Provinces and Presidencies; and had always headed the list as first received and "booked, in the Office of the Accountant-General, P. W. D. (Bengal)." These Accounts were prepared by no other than the Regular Accountants, Memorialist being one of them, and No. 9 of the twelve "attested" men, (*vide the List*) whose names were subsequently authorized to be "brought on the Graded List of Accountants" under the Government of India,—*vide* Examiner's Letter No. 188 A., dated 26th February 1878, and Accountant-General's (P. W. D.) reply thereto, No. 531 E., of Simla, dated "12th June 1878."

7. That during the time of Colonel Conway-Gordon's, R. E., incumbency, the Madras Accountants were *ad arbitrium* slighted and subjected to great indignities by numerous "defamatory" remarks on public documents, made with a view to irritate, annoy, and needlessly insult their feelings. That employes entertained by this officer were dismissed, but subsequently were reinstated in service on reduced salaries from their having, in a letter addressed through the Examiner, to Government, protested to elect for "General Service" as was proposed by himself, and afterwards the old Madras men had been reported as an apathetic and inefficient set of Accountants, wanting in energy, etc., and was like "Madras" a disgrace to other fairer, "go-a-head Provinces" (*vide* para. 12 *infra*).

8. That the Madras Accountants at this critical juncture labored under very serious disadvantages in having at the head of their office an Examiner who was unacquainted with them, and whose sympathies were not at all with them. The Examiner had come from Bengal and believed that no good Accountant could come from anywhere but Bengal. The Bengal and believed that no good Accountant could come from anywhere but Bengal. The graded Accountants from other Provinces, who had been brought to Madras "on promotion to the next higher grade," for employment on Famine duties, were, therefore, petted, pampered, and later on, they were *unauthorizedly* granted "further promotion," and the claims of the old Madras Accountants were not considered, and they were despised and kept in the back ground.

9. That the Chief Accountant of the Examiner's Office (No. 1 in the List of Madras "Covenanted" Accountants) (*Memorialist, being No. 9, in the List*) was, for a clerical error committed by a copyist, personally held responsible for it, threatened with dismissal from service, and thereupon degraded, his salary having been reduced from Rs. 275 to Rs. 150, and a copyist's work assigned to him in the writing up of Sub-Journals from "Works Registers." It should be noted that the graver offence committed by the Chief Accountant was, that he had unguardedly animadverted in unbecoming terms upon the ignorance and shortcomings betrayed by certain "graded Bengal Accountants" brought to this Presidency by Colonel Conway-Gordon, R. E., for employment on "Famine Accounts." That shortly before his degradation, this Offending Accountant had obtained an Honorarium of Rs. 500, and was reported "as being fully qualified for the duties of a Deputy Examiner of Public Works Accounts, in the SUPERIOR SERVICE which he had for some time discharged,"—*vide* Examiner's Letter No. 165 A., dated 14th January 1878, and see also para. 6 *infra*. *supra?*

10. That His Grace the then Governor of Madras, after a personal inspection and investigation of the "Famine Accounts," as compiled by the Graded Accountants of Bengal, found the figures and results a mass of confusion and inaccuracies, entailing in addition to the loss of labor and time, an enormous waste of printed forms and books, and thereupon entrusted the re-auditing and compilation, *de novo*, of the whole "Famine Accounts," to the "Madras Accountants," when one of the twelve "Covenanted" Accountants, No. 7 in the "List," was at once promoted to the "Second" Grade, though at first it was intended to make him only a fourth grade Accountant, and was placed over the Bengal Accountants, with a staff of Madras Accountants, including Memorialist (whose name stood as No. 9 in the said "List") being put in sole charge of the "Famine Accounts." On completion of these Famine Accounts, His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos "was perfectly convinced that, as practical Accountants, the Madras men were undoubtedly "more reliable" than the graded Accountants of Bengal"—*vide* also para. 12 *infra*. The Accountant of Memorialist's grade above referred to was, on his retirement, admitted to the Special Privileges, because the Examiner had shortly before formally appointed him to a Second Grade Accountantship.

11. That on the 15th January and 5th February of this JUBILEE YEAR (1887,) he humbly besought an interview with HIS EXCELLENCY LORD CONNEMARA, which, unhappily, was not vouchsafed to him (*vide* petitions and their respective enclosures, already on the records of Government to which special consideration is most fervently supplicated as showing good and "new grounds" for his case being re-opened for the *third* time. This interview was, for the second time, most respectfully importuned, to confidentially explain *verbally* his grievances, and that the delay to grade the Madras Accountants *formally* (though his retaining a *special* "Agreement") arose purely from a "spiteful ill-feeling," and was consequently a "wrongful act," on the part of the Examiner, for which Memorialist was *unjustly* made to suffer loss of his just rights of an *Accountant of the Fourth Grade*, for no reason whatever and for no fault that he had committed. That Colonel Conway-Gordon, R. E., had, in the presence of two employes of his Office, openly declared his antipathy and determination not to grade the Madras men, and had deliberately destroyed the "Classified List" of Accountants, which at the time he had prepared with reference to G. O. No. 36, dated 14th May 1879, (*vide* para. 4 *supra*) and did express himself thus: "I'll be d—d if I will grade the Madras Accountants" and, thereupon, had himself written on the document which had given irritation, the following endorsement:—"The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are Esau's"—indicating by Jacob the offending Madras Accountant (who at the time was serving as "Second Assistant in the Public Works Secretariat"), and by Esau the hands of the Under-Secretary to Government, Public Works Department (Colonel J. Pennycuik, R. E.), who signed the order, (*vide* also para. 8 *infra*) in respect to the *defiant* and "unauthorized" grant of the higher grade further allowed to the Bengal Accountants.

12. That before proceeding on *furlough* to Europe, Colonel Conway-Gordon, R. E., reported "that by a strange coincidence (see para. 8 above) he now came to find out that the "Accountants in Madras were a class of men superior to any that he had known in India, "and regretted that their salaries were not in proportion to their deserts,—in fact that they "were the worst paid Accountants in India, and were inferior to the Bengal men only in respect of salary." This favorable report now made, viewed *in juxta position* with previous adverse reports made in respect of the Madras men, had elicited from His Grace the Governor the laconic, but shrewd remark, "Strange indeed," bearing the Duke's initials, "B. and C."

13. That Colonel H. Le. MCarey, whilst Officiating Examiner, sent for the Memorialist, and *personally* assured him that, as he was an "Accountant," he would obtain the *Special Privileges*, on retirement, and, thereupon, this officer had *withheld* the letter addressed to Government setting forth his claims to an "average pension" and a "bonus of twelve months' salary."

14. That shortly after, Memorialist again made a personal application to Colonel D. H. Trail, R. E., on his Assuming charge of the Office. The Examiner repeatedly assured him "that he was authorized to grade him an Accountant," and expressed sympathy for his large family, but, if he wished, Colonel Trail would permit him to retire. Four months after Memorialist's retirement from the service, the Examiner, in his Letter No. 70 W., dated 21st July 1880, printed with Government Order No. 2052 W., dated 30th August 1880, disallowed his claims to an "average pension and bonus," "Presidency allowance," and "House-rent," and reported, "that as Mr. Laughlin was never graded," he is not "entitled to the concessions," and for the same reason, had disallowed the claims preferred under paras. 33 and 37 provided for him, in the Public Works Code, as an "Accountant of the Fourth Grade."

15. That Your Majesty's Memorialist surely could not reasonably be blamed for this "wilful omission," on the part of the Examiner to grade him, an omission which unjustly deprived him of his hard earned claims as an Accountant of the Fourth Grade, which *Status* he had held in the Service by virtue of his *attested* "Covenant," and other qualifying circumstances, sanctioned by Government, from the 25th July 1876. Therefore, it was *cruel* and unfair to have, *after his retirement*, treated him as a "Clerk," whilst the several Examiners had acknowledged him as an *Accountant*. This they had persistently neglected to do from time to time and the Examiner failed to assign a "reason" for the "responsible omission,

to grade," which act was delayed, for no other cause than that, *now for the first time*, brought officially to notice in para. 11 *supra*.

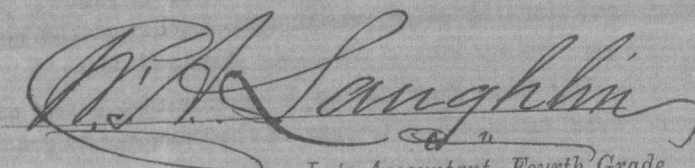
16. That as the most conclusive proof that your humble Petitioner entered the service as an Accountant and worked as such from the year 1862 to 1880, a reference to the Pay Bills of his office and the Half-yearly Classified Lists published by Government, is humbly solicited. A change of designation from "Accountant" to "Acting Accountant," "Clerk, Acting Accountant" and latterly "Clerk" was *most arbitrarily* made towards the end of 1879—80 (*vide* para. 4 *supra*, and G. O. No. 36 d. 14th May 1879) by Col. Conway Gordon, without the authority of Government, and simply from the "spiteful ill-feeling" above referred to.

17. That the service he had rendered in another Department for a period of 11 months, which should have counted towards his pension, was unjustly set aside by the Examiner, although the subsequent service, to the disallowed *interim*, has been permitted to count, which is in other words, that the intermediate period of service *should count also* the re-appointment being *within one year*.

18. That, under the grievous circumstances of his unhappy case above set forth Your Most Gracious Majesty's poor and humble Memorialist *earnestly* prays he may be considered justly entitled to the *proffered* privileges which he fairly earned, for zealous and faithful service rendered to the State, but which he was denied on the plea, that he was not a *Graded Accountant* though he had executed an Agreement to serve in that Capacity as above stated and there were repeated Orders to Grade. The privileges referred to, and which he humbly prays for, are:—

1. An average pension and bonus of twelve months' salary which was disallowed (instead of the 3 months' salary) which even was granted indiscriminately with others, viz., Clerks and Accountants and Reference Pickers in para. 4 of G. O. No. 2052 W., dated 30th August 1880, simply because the Petitioner was not (*formally*) again graded an Accountant of the Fourth Grade, under the Subsequent Scheme.
2. House-rent, at Rs. 10 per mensem (Public Works Code, para. 33) from date of his *attested* "Covenant," which was disallowed in para. 5 of the above G. O., and for the same reason.
3. Presidency allowance, at Rs. 30 per mensem from date of the order granting the allowance (Public Works Code, para. 37), which was disallowed in para. 6 of the above G. O., and for the same reason.
4. Eleven months' qualifying service for pension, rendered in another department, which was *erroneously* disallowed in para. 1 of the above G. O., by a "misconstruction of rule."

19. For which Royal Favor and Sovereign Condescension vouchsafed to Memorialist, in this YOUR MAJESTY'S JUBILEE YEAR, he, with his distressed family of ten souls, will, as in duty bound, EVER PRAY AT THE THRONE OF GRACE for the welfare of Your Majesty and Your Royal Family.



HER MAJESTY'S JUBILEE YEAR, }
MADRAS, 20th June 1887. }

Late Accountant, Fourth Grade,
Office of Examiner of Public Works Accounts, Madras.

No 10 "Lang's Gardens"
Madras, 30th June 1887

To
The Hon'ble H. E. Stokes
Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort St. George,
Madras.

Hon'ble Sir

I beg very respectfully to enclose my
Appeal, in Original, addressed to Her
Most Gracious Majesty, the Queen-Emress
of India, forwarded through the Government
of Madras, which I humbly entreat, His
Excellency, Lord Connamara, in so doing,
will favorably consider in Council, and
transmit the same with a recommendatory
Despatch, for the grant of the Prayer
of my Petition, in this Her Majesty's
Jubilee Year, (1887.)

With great Respect,

I have the honor

to be
Sir

Your most Obedient, Humble Servant.

W. P. Loughlin

Government Pensioner.



PWC No 5084

Q. No 1546 W. 18.6.86
" 1342 W. 29.5.86
" 21 W. 5.1.86
" 2572 W. 3.11.83
" 2150
" 2151 W. 15.9.83
" 292 C. 13.2.85
Q. No 2231 W. 12.11.84
" 1946 W. 9.8.84
" 123 W. 16.1.84
" 725 W. 20.3.82
" 142
" 148 W. 17.1.82
Q. 6. 2900 W. 16.7.78
" 3898 W. 11.9.78
Q. No 2232 W. 28.8.79
" 2252 W. 3.9.79
Q. No 2323 W. 11.9.79
" 2324
Q. 6. 2594 W. 15.10.79
" 323 W. 12.2.80
" 218 W. 28.1.80
Q. No 1556 W. 22.6.81
Q. No 1689 W. 8.7.82
Q. No 2701 W. 17.10.82
" 2780 W. 25.10.82
Q. No 2364 C. 30.11.83
Q. 6. 2052 W. 20.8.88

No 1891 W a 14th July/87
94.7.87

To
C.A.W
Bangalore
4/7/87

for complete file
see
2.7.87

Presented 56.5.7.87 2.11.7.87

To

The Private Secretary
to His Excellency
Lord Curzon
Governor of Madras.

Sir,

I beg very respectfully, in a separate
cover to your Address, to forward in
"Duplicate", and "Triplicate", Copies of my
Memorial, addressed to Her Most Gracious
Majesty, the Queen Empress of India,
and to solicit the favor of your
submitting the same, for favorable
Consideration, and transmission to
the Home Government, for to the prant
being endorsed to me, in this Her
Majesty's Jubilee Year of my Prayer
therein Contained by the Local Government.

With the greatest respect
I have the honor, to be

Sir
Your most obedient humble servant
W.A. Loughlin
Government Pleader.

Q. No 1546 W.
" 1342 W.
" 21 W.
" 2572 W.
" 2150
" 2151 W. 13
No 292 C. 13
Q. No 2531 W. 12
" 1946 W. 9
" 123 W. 16
" 725 W. 20
" 142
148 W. 17
Q. No 2900 W.
" 3898 W.
Q. No 2232 W.
" No 2252 W.
Q. No 2322 W.
" 2324
Q. No 2594 W.
" No 323 W.
" 218 W.
Q. No 1536 W.
Q. No 2701 W.
" 2780 W.
No 236 W.
Q. No 20.2

E. 1

PH 5244

Q. No 2232 W.

Presented 56.5-7-87-2.11.787

Memorandum
2-7-87

TRIPLICATE.

To
HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY, VICTORIA,
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT
BRITAIN AND IRELAND,
QUEEN EMPRESS OF INDIA.
(THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.)

The Humble Memorial of WILLIAM A. LAUGHLIN,
late Accountant, Fourth Grade, Office of Ex-
aminer of Public Works Accounts, Madras,
now a Government Pensioner residing at
No. 10, Lang's Gardens, Madras.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY.

That in profound thankfulness to Almighty God, for the noble sentiments of Your Most Gracious Majesty's sublime and inspired declaration, that in Your humble, poor and loyal subjects' (memorialist's) prosperity is Your Majesty's strength, in their contentment, Your Majesty's security, and in their heart-felt gratitude Your Majesty's great reward. Your Majesty's distressed, humble and poor supplicant, the son of an old "Waterloo" Soldier, whose late father hailed from County Armagh, Ireland, and Your Petitioner, an unfortunate cripple, begs leave to approach Your Majesty on his bended knees and submit his grievances, and he sincerely and fervently prays for redress, and for the long continuance of Your Majesty's auspicious and beneficent reign.

2. That in the above blessed assurance of his always possessing Your Sovereign Majesty's Personal sympathy and protection, Your Memorialist feels confident, that he will not fail to obtain justice at Your Most Gracious Majesty's merciful and compassionate hands. The just consideration due to his righteous claim equitably as an Accountant of the Fourth Grade, in virtue of his attested "Covenant," dated 25th July 1876, has been hitherto denied him whilst he was fairly entitled to an average pension and a bonus of twelve months' salary on his retirement from the Service. This "privilege" which was proffered, and on the strength of which inducement he elected in good faith to retire under the Government of India Resolution, No. 2079, P. W. D., dated 31st July 1879, has now unhappily been disallowed to him, after a faithful and zealous service of above seventeen years rendered to the State and in the evening of his life. In consequence of this injustice done him he has been obliged to draw the small pension of Rs. 26 (£2-12-0) assigned under the ordinary rules of the service to a "Clerk" (as such he was never considered) instead of the "Average" pension, viz., Rs. 30-3-6 (£3-0-5½) which was granted to "all Accountants," which official status he had held, having discharged the duties of an Accountant throughout his service. The difference, namely, Rs. 4-3-6 (£0-8-5½), though a trivial sum, is a great loss which he deeply deplores, he having a family of ten souls to support. This concession, which he has equitably earned as a right, has been most cruelly and unjustly withheld from him, simply, "because he was not formally graded an Accountant" under the subsequent scheme. The "omission to grade" had arisen from no fault of his own, but was caused by a "wrongful act" and expressed spiteful ill-feeling entertained by Colonel Conway-Gordon, R. E., towards grading the Madras Accountants as hereinafter explained, when that Officer was the Examiner of Public Works Accounts.

3. That the several Orders of Government passed on his (14) petitions persistently maintained this view of his admittedly "very hard case," and on appeal to the Government of India, Colonel Filgate, R. E., raised the question as to "why Mr. Laughlin was not graded?" and requested to be favoured with a copy of the "Covenant" he signed (Memorialist should have *rightly* as "agreed upon" been graded on the 25th July 1876, in terms of paras. 2, 3, and 8 of Circular No. 40 of 1876, issued to him by the Examiner of Public Works Accounts "to accept service," attest an "Agreement," ENGAGING HIM AS A FOURTH GRADE ACCOUNTANT to serve in any place in British India, under Government Order, No. 878, dated the 4th April 1876, which inaugurated the formation in the Madras Presidency of a *Separate* "Accounts' Branch" which was afterwards incorporated with the "General Establishment List of Accountants, under the Government of India, sanctioned in their No. 1196 E. G., dated 30th August 1878," with reference to their Letter No. 32 E., dated 10th January 1878,) and irrespective of the subsequent "authorizations" to grade him, as cited in para. 6 *infra*. Mr. D. C. Gordon, Examiner, having all these facts before him, and seeing the mistake committed, reported "that he was unable to account for the omission to grade, and that his predecessor was responsible for it." Thereupon, and during Colonel Filgate's absence on leave, the Officiating Accountant-General, P. W. D., (Bengal) (Colonel Conway-Gordon, R. E.,) decided "that the Government of India see no reason to interfere with the decision of the Government of Madras on Mr. Laughlin's case."

4. That from the Orders of Government issued on his several appeals from May 1880 to 5th February 1887, it is obviously clear that, if not intentionally, the Government have *inadvertently* overlooked the astounding fact, that the several Orders passed on the subject from the year 1876 to 28th January 1880, have emphatically *authorized* the Examiner "to grade him." One of the Orders forwarded to the Examiner demanded "a reason" if he was not already *formally* graded an Accountant, and is as follows:—GOVERNMENT ORDER, DATED 14TH MAY 1879, No. 36, "Please forward a list of men now employed in the Accounts' Branch who have been recommended to you for exemption from passing Examinations, entrance and other, showing in each case whether the individual named has been exempted, and whether he has been brought on the Graded List; if he has, in what grade, and if not, the reason why?" The last Order, issued on the 28th January 1880, (about 9 months afterwards,) No. 218 W., also, fully provided for the exceptional circumstances of his case, and again clearly "authorized his being at once graded, and permitted him to retire" with concessions under part (one) of Section 8 of the said Government Order, as it could not be said that there was "no room" for him on the reduced strength of the Establishment; his post thus rendered vacant was filled by an "Accountant of the Fourth Grade" (Mr. Telfer) from another Province, temporarily employed in this Presidency, on Famine Accounts, but four months after Memorialist's retirement he was *wrongly* classed a "Clerk" under its second clause, which treatment was most cruel and unjust to his claim as an "Accountant of the Fourth Grade," who had duly *attested* a "Covenant" as such, from the 25th July 1876 as was demanded of him.

5. That the delay on the part of the Examiner to grade him, for which "no reason" was assigned, clearly points to the fact of a "spiteful ill-feeling" having existed, and a "strong prejudice" having been entertained, as was subsequently displayed by Colonel Conway-Gordon, R. E., towards the grading by him of a *certain subordinate*, whose name was included in the "List of Madras Covenanted Accountants." This fact is now, for the first time, brought to official notice. Thus Your Majesty's Memorialist has been *unjustly* made to suffer as explained in para. 11 *infra*.

6. That the Madras Accountants had, by their fitness and intelligence in Accounts' duties, always earned for themselves a good Reputation from all previous Examiners of Public Works Accounts, and the Annual Reports made by Sir George Kellner and General George Chesney, R. E., to the Government of India, stated the fact "that the Public Works Accounts of the Madras Presidency had always *compared*" most favorably with those of

"other Provinces and Presidencies; and had always headed the list as *first* received and booked, in the Office of the Accountant-General, P. W. D. (Bengal)." These Accounts were prepared by no other than the Regular Accountants, Memorialist being one of them, and No. 9 of the twelve "attested" men, (*vide the List*) whose names were subsequently authorized to be "brought on the Graded List of Accountants" under the Government of India,—*vide* Examiner's Letter No. 188 A., dated 26th February 1878, and Accountant-General's (P. W. D.) reply thereto, No. 531 E., of Simla, dated "12th June 1878."

7. That during the time of Colonel Conway-Gordon's, R. E., incumbency, the Madras Accountants were *Ad arbitrium* slighted and subjected to great indignities by numerous "defamatory" remarks on public documents, made with a view to irritate, annoy, and needlessly insult their feelings. That employes entertained by this officer were dismissed, but subsequently were reinstated in service on reduced salaries from their having, in a letter addressed through the Examiner, to Government, protested to elect for "General Service" as was proposed by *himself*, and afterwards the old Madras men had been reported as an apathetic and inefficient set of Accountants, wanting in energy, *etc.*, and was like "Madras" a disgrace to other fairer, "go-a-head Provinces" (*vide* para. 12 *infra*).

8. That the Madras Accountants at this critical juncture labored under very serious disadvantages in having at the head of their office an Examiner who was unacquainted with them, and whose sympathies were not at all with them. The Examiner had come from Bengal and *believed* that no good Accountant could come from anywhere but Bengal. The graded Accountants from other Provinces, who had been brought to Madras "on promotion to the next higher grade," for employment on Famine duties, were, therefore, petted, pampered, and later on, they were *unauthorizedly* granted "further promotion," and the claims of the old Madras Accountants were not considered, and they were despised and kept in the back ground.

9. That the Chief Accountant of the Examiner's Office (No. 1 in the List of Madras "Covenanted" Accountants) (*Memorialist, being No. 9, in the List*) was, for a clerical error committed by a copyist, personally held responsible for it, threatened with dismissal from service, and thereupon degraded, his salary having been reduced from Rs. 275 to Rs. 150, and a copyist's work assigned to him in the writing up of Sub-Journals from "Works Registers." It should be noted that the graver offence committed by the Chief Accountant was, that he had unguardedly animadverted in unbecoming terms upon the *ignorance* and *shortcomings* betrayed by certain "graded Bengal Accountants" brought to this Presidency by Colonel Conway-Gordon, R. E., for employment on "Famine Accounts." That shortly before his degradation, this Offending Accountant had obtained an Honorarium of Rs. 500, and was reported "as being fully qualified for the duties of a Deputy Examiner of Public Works Accounts, in the SUPERIOR SERVICE which he had for some time discharged,"—*vide* Examiner's Letter No. 165 A., dated 14th January 1878, and see also para. 6 *infra*.

10. That His Grace the then Governor of Madras, after a *personal* inspection and investigation of the "Famine Accounts," as compiled by the Graded Accountants of Bengal, found the figures and results a mass of confusion and inaccuracies, entailing in addition to the loss of labor and time, an enormous waste of printed forms and books, and thereupon entrusted the re-auditing and compilation, *de novo*, of the whole "Famine Accounts," to the "Madras Accountants," when one of the twelve "Covenanted" Accountants, No. 7 in the "List," was at once promoted to the "Second" Grade, though at first it was intended to make him only a *fourth* grade Accountant, and was placed over the Bengal Accountants, with a staff of Madras Accountants, including Memorialist (whose name stood as No. 9 in the said "List") being put in sole charge of the "Famine Accounts." On completion of these Famine Accounts, His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos "was perfectly convinced that, as practical Accountants, the Madras men were undoubtedly "more reliable" than the graded Accountants of Bengal"—*vide* also para. 12 *infra*. The Accountant of Memorialist's grade above referred to was, on his retirement, admitted to the Special Privileges, because the Examiner had shortly before *formally* appointed him to a *Second Grade Accountantship*.

11. That on the 15th January and 5th February of this JUBILEE YEAR (1887,) he humbly besought an interview with His EXCELLENCY LORD CONNEMARA, which, unhappily, was not vouchsafed to him (*vide* petitions and their respective enclosures, already on the records of Government to which special consideration is most fervently supplicated as showing good and "new grounds" for his case being re-opened for the *third* time. This interview was, for the second time, most respectfully importuned, to confidentially explain *verbally* his grievances, and that the delay to grade the Madras Accountants *formally* (though his retaining a *special* "Agreement") arose purely from a "spiteful ill-feeling," and was consequently a "wrongful act," on the part of the Examiner, for which Memorialist was *unjustly* made to suffer loss of his just rights of an *Accountant of the Fourth Grade*, for no reason whatever and for no fault that he had committed. That Colonel Conway-Gordon, R. E., had, in the presence of two employes of his Office, openly declared his antipathy and determination not to grade the Madras men, and had deliberately destroyed the "Classified List" of Accountants, which at the time he had prepared with reference to G. O. No. 36, dated 14th May 1879, (*vide* para. 4 *supra*) and did express himself thus: "I'll be d—d if I will grade the Madras Accountants" and, thereupon, had himself written on the document which had given irritation, the following endorsement:—"The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are Esau's"—indicating by Jacob the offending Madras Accountant (who at the time was serving as "Second Assistant in the Public Works Secretariat"), and by Esau the hands of the Under-Secretary to Government, Public Works Department (Colonel J. Pennycuik, R. E.), who signed the order, (*vide* also para. 8 *infra*) in respect to the *defiant* and "unauthorized" grant of the higher grade further allowed to the Bengal Accountants.

12. That before proceeding on *furlough* to Europe, Colonel Conway-Gordon, R. E., reported "that by a strange coincidence (see para. 8 above) he now came to find out that the "Accountants in Madras were a class of men superior to any that he had known in India, "and regretted that their salaries were not in proportion to their deserts,—in fact that they "were the worst paid Accountants in India, and were inferior to the Bengal men only in respect of salary." This favorable report now made, viewed *in justa position* with previous adverse reports made in respect of the Madras men, had elicited from His Grace the Governor the laconic, but shrewd remark, "Strange indeed," bearing the Duke's initials, "B. and C."

13. That Colonel H. Le. Mc Carey, whilst Officiating Examiner, sent for the Memorialist, and *personally* assured him that, as he was an "Accountant," he would obtain the *Special Privileges*, on retirement, and, thereupon, this officer had *withheld* the letter addressed to Government setting forth his claims to an "average pension" and a "bonus of twelve months' salary."

14. That shortly after, Memorialist again made a personal application to Colonel D. H. Trail, R. E., on his Assuming charge of the Office. The Examiner repeatedly assured him "that he was authorized to grade him an Accountant," and expressed sympathy for his large family, but, if he wished, Colonel Trail would permit him to retire. Four months after Memorialist's retirement from the service, the Examiner, in his Letter No. 70 W., dated 21st July 1880, printed with Government Order No. 2052 W., dated 30th August 1880, disallowed his claims to an "average pension and bonus," "Presidency allowance," and "House-rent," and reported, "that as Mr. Laughlin was never graded," he is not "entitled to the concessions," and for the same reason, had disallowed the claims preferred under paras. 33 and 37 provided for him, in the Public Works Code, as an "Accountant of the Fourth Grade."

15. That Your Majesty's Memorialist surely could not reasonably be blamed for this "wilful omission" on the part of the Examiner to grade him, an omission which unjustly deprived him of his hard earned claims as an Accountant of the Fourth Grade, which *Status* he had held in the Service by virtue of his *attested* "Covenant," and other qualifying circumstances, sanctioned by Government, from the 25th July 1876. Therefore, it was *cruel* and unfair to have, *after his retirement*, treated him as a "Clerk," whilst the several Examiners had acknowledged him as an *Accountant*. This they had persistently neglected to do from time to time and the Examiner failed to assign a "reason" for the "responsible omission,

to grade," which act was delayed, for no other cause than that, *now for the first time*, brought officially to notice in para. 11 *supra*.

16. That as the most conclusive proof that your humble Petitioner entered the service as an Accountant and worked as such from the year 1862 to 1880, a reference to the Pay Bills of his office and the Half-yearly Classified Lists published by Government, is humbly solicited. A change of designation from "Accountant" to "Acting Accountant," "Clerk, Acting Accountant" and latterly "Clerk" was *most arbitrarily* made towards the end of 1879—80 (*vide* para. 4 *supra*, and G. O. No. 36 d. 14th May 1879) by Col. Conway Gordon, without the authority of Government, and simply from the "spiteful ill-feeling" above referred to.

17. That the service he had rendered in another Department for a period of 11 months, which should have counted towards his pension, was unjustly set aside by the Examiner, although the subsequent service, to the disallowed *interim*, has been permitted to count, which is in other words, that the intermediate period of service *should count also* the re-appointment being *within one year*.

18. That, under the grievous circumstances of his unhappy case above set forth Your Most Gracious Majesty's poor and humble Memorialist *earnestly* prays he may be considered justly entitled to the *proffered* privileges which he fairly earned, for zealous and faithful service rendered to the State, but which he was denied on the plea, that he was not a *Graded* Accountant though he had executed an Agreement to serve in that Capacity as above stated and there were repeated Orders to Grade. The privileges referred to, and which he humbly prays for, are:—

1. An average pension and bonus of twelve months' salary which was disallowed (instead of the 3 months' salary) which even was granted indiscriminately with others, viz., Clerks and Accountants and Reference Pickers in para. 4 of G. O. No. 2052 W., dated 30th August 1880, simply because the Petitioner was not (*formally*) again graded an Accountant of the Fourth Grade, under the Subsequent Scheme.
2. House-rent, at Rs. 10 per mensem (Public Works Code, para. 33) from date of his *attested* "Covenant," which was disallowed in para. 5 of the above G. O., and for the same reason.
3. Presidency allowance, at Rs. 30 per mensem from date of the order granting the allowance (Public Works Code, para. 37), which was disallowed in para. 6 of the above G. O., and for the same reason.
4. Eleven months' qualifying service for pension, rendered in another department, which was *erroneously* disallowed in para. 1 of the above G. O., by a "misconstruction of rule."

19. For which Royal Favor and Sovereign Condescension vouchsafed to Memorialist, in this YOUR MAJESTY'S JUBILEE YEAR, he, with his distressed family of ten souls, will, as in duty bound, EVER PRAY AT THE THRONE OF GRACE for the welfare of Your Majesty and Your Royal Family.

D. H. Laughlin

HER MAJESTY'S JUBILEE YEAR,
MADRAS, 20th June 1887.

Late Accountant, Fourth Grade,
Office of Examiner of Public Works Accounts, Madras.

Letter
~~petition~~ from *W. A. Laughlin*

Dated *30th June* 1887.

TRANSFERRED to the Chief Secretary to
Government for disposal.

(By Order.)

James
Private Secretary.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Ootacamund
2nd July 1887.

E. L. Hughes
PH 12/4/87

P.W.C. No. 5414

(188) DEPARTMENT.

From
THE PRIVATE SECRETARY
TO THE RIGHT HON. THE GOVERNOR,

To
THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
DEPARTMENT.

Dated 2nd }
Reed. } July 1887.

ENCLOSURE.

Subject.

Transfers a ^{letter} petition from W. A. Langhlin
forwarding a memorial for
redress of grievances.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

No. 1891W

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 14th July/87

Read the following

Letter from Mr W. A. Langhlin of 30.6.87, submitting
a memorial addressed to H.M. the Queen
and from the Pr. Secy. to H.M. the Govr of 2.7.87,
transferring copy of the same memorial.

Mr Langhlin's
attention will be drawn
to G.O. No. 2701W of
17th Oct 1882, in
which he was informed
that his claims had
been rejected by the
Secy. of State for India.

2. The transmission
of the present memorial
will be withheld

under

under clause 3, rule X,
para 821 of the P.W. Code.

for
8/7/87

No. 1891 W of 14th July 1887

Mr W. A. Langhlin.
with copy of clause 3, Rule
X, para 821 P.W. Code

G.O. No. 483 W

Represents that letters addressed
the authorities noted in the margin
21-2-87 to the Collector requesting them to
23-2-87 to the Collector place a steamer
13-4-87 to the Collector instead of the ferry
16-5-87 to the Board for use of the passengers
16-5-87 to the Govt. in Rajahmundry;
2-6-87 - but that no steps were
2-6-87 - taken for it and
4-6-87 - the Ferry Contract
was sold by auction,
that the Collector endorsed "The new
steamer is to be procured. If
any one was available it will be
sent without delay." The Secretary
to Govt. endorsed, "you should
apply to the Board of Revenue", that
the Port Engineer unwilling to spare even
one of the 4 steamers available,
he gave the Ferry to Contract, that
in 1883 when the people of Rajahmundry
complained to the Govt. against the
sale of the steamer intended by the
Engineer, they ordered "Cancelled the
sale of Godavari Steamer - Send im-
mediately to the Rajahmundry Ferry
on repairs till the new steamer
supplied"; that the inconvenience
which happen to the people for want
of a steamer has already been often
represented to Govt.; that when last
floods in Godavari, the people could
not cross the river for 3 days either by the