

Public Works Dept
26 April 1888

Memo

An Office note from
the Examiner - P.W. C. No.
3629. on the subject of
Presidency Allowances to
Officers of the Public
Works Dept was circu-
lated on the 21st Inst.
in continuation of the
previous papers on the
same subject. This has
not come back to the
office, though the file
has returned. The
Secretary will be obliged
if the missing paper
can be returned.

I sent it on with the
other papers last Monday
26 Apr.

I did not collect that
particular paper but feel
certain I put up all I received

26.4.88

C. G. L.

J. H.

26/4/88

No. 1544 C.

Government of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

Chepāk, 12th April 1888.

OFFICE NOTE.

From

W

To

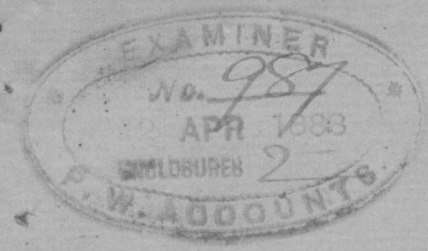
C

A copy of Govt
Order No. 598 G. of
10.3.88 is forwarded
herewith, with reference
to your office note No.
1298 of 5.4.88.

W
12.4.88

W

C



The Hon Mr C. G. Master
C. S. J.
His Excellency the Govt.
The Rt. Hon the Governor

93
Cir. 26/4

To W.

No 1354
18.4.88.

I earnestly trust that Government will not think it necessary to absolutely discontinue the grant of presidency allowance to accountants of the P.W.D. stationed in Madras.

2. In the course of my proposals for the reorganization of the establishment of accountants I have, it is true, suggested that presidency allowance should be discontinued in the case of men whose natural home is in Madras; but this was merely one part of a comprehensive proposal the general effect of which, if adopted, would be to give a substantial increase of pay and allowances to each individual accountant during his service, whilst eventually reducing the number of accountants, and I did not propose to withdraw the allowance from those at present in receipt of it.

3. In para 26 of the same note I have shown that the average pay of accountants elsewhere is, even now, about 35 per cent higher than it is in this presidency, Rs. 164 against Rs. 121, and I have explained how injuriously this difference affects

the Madras P.W. accounts department, and how difficult it is to get and keep good men. The difference also tells in another way. It makes it very difficult to propose the transfer of accountants from other provinces to Madras. Just now I find the greatest possible difficulty in at all carrying on the work of my office and providing accountants to fill vacancies in divisional offices, or in new divisions, or to replace accountants on leave. Every time that an accountant is wanted in a division I have to disorganize my own office more or less seriously. I ~~now~~ already have so many temporary accountants — temporary men misnamed accountants — whom I am obliged to keep in my own office, as they would be quite useless in a division, that the real strength of my office is very much below the nominal strength. The difficulty is becoming so serious that the only remedy I can think of is to ask for the transfer of five or six competent accountants from other provinces if — as is not improbable — there are any to spare, but if the existing disadvantages of service in the

Madras Presidency are to be further increased by the abolition of presidency allowances, it will be most difficult to get men from other provinces.

4. As the letter of the Government of India has only been communicated to me at my own request on the ground that the proposal especially affects the accounts branch, I may be excused for thus pointing out that, in so far as accountants are liable to transfer to any part of India, there may be reasons for making a distinction between their case and that of subordinates of corresponding rank in the executive branch; but I do not wish to rest the case entirely on such grounds. It appears to me that, on the facts as set forth in the paper forwarded with the Government of India letter No. 598 G. dated 10th. March 1888, no case has been made out for the abolition of presidency allowances, except as regards military officers on military and staff pay who, it is alleged, are compensated twice over for the same thing, inasmuch as the military scale of presidency house rent is said to include

compensation for extra cost of other things than house rent.

5. I know, from personal knowledge of the two towns, that for a bachelor the necessary expenses of living are, if anything, higher in Madras than in Calcutta. It is otherwise in the case of married men; but ~~then~~ Government does not recognize the married condition as any ground for exceptional treatment in the matter of salary and allowances. A bachelor — I am speaking of the class from whom members of the engineer establishment are drawn — a bachelor can I know live better and more comfortably in a Calcutta boarding house than he can for the same sum, say Rs. 150 a month, in a Madras hotel; and his necessary expenses for locomotion will be from Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 a month less in Calcutta than in Madras. In Madras he must keep a carriage of some kind, whereas in Calcutta it is not in the least necessary, owing to the facilities afforded by hackney carriages and tramcars. I cannot at the comparative costs may be for other claims; but I can see no reason why,

for Europeans at any rate, the conditions should be reversed in the case of subordinate members of the establishment.

6. The finance commission say they have satisfied themselves that the cost of living in Madras (apart from that of house rent) is not necessarily greater than that of living in the mofussil; but they offer no evidence whatever in support of their conclusion, which I venture to think is not in accordance with the general experience of Madras officers.

7. The Government of India seem to base their opinion mainly on the circumstances that the allowance— or rather the full allowance, for conveyance allowance was given when presidency allowance was not — was not considered necessary twelve or fifteen years ago, from which they infer that its introduction in 1879 (not in 1881 as stated) was unnecessary. I venture to think that is an argument which might perhaps have been pressed to some purpose in 1879, but as this was not

it would, I respectfully submit, be more reasonable to assume that the conclusion carefully and deliberately arrived at in 1879 was substantially correct. The very fact that of the Government, Madras did not adopt the rule as to presidency allowances when those allowances were first sanctioned, goes, I think, to show that the matter has always been carefully considered, and that the rule was not adopted until it had become clear that its adoption was really necessary as a matter of common justice.

Ch. C.
1884.

Ch. C.
1884.

no 1544C of 12.4.88.
" 1483C of 6.4.88
3-9-12-10-11-12
5.1.20 ✓

PTC No 3629

The Hon Mr C. G. Master C.S.J.
H. S. the C. C.
The Rt. Hon the Governor

Circulated in continuation
of the previous file C.
Circulated yesterday - 21.4.88
19.4.88

W. S. 1875
Mr. K. S. S. S.
with notes for any future
reference and also summary

Jan
27/6/88
B. No. 1354 w. d/ 8" May 1888

Recorded with
reference to letter to
the Gov. of India No
1353 w. d/ 8" May 1888

+ C. No 2621

Jan
30/4/88

HW 35-88
2.8.88
93 C
4/1

This had better be circulated in continuation
of file sent yesterday - it may be of use

Jan 21/4/88
found C's note on letter to Gov.

3629.

C.A.W.

Forwarded. L.W.

13.4.88

Submitted L.W.

~~W. L.~~
Lumber files to go to
H. M. with the draft.

W. L.

14-15-88

C. W.

Please let me know
whether your note to W. L. of
13th inst should also go to the
H. M. as it seems to be
an explanatory note of
the linked file for