1. Number of pages. 12
2. Date of repair. 17-2-80
3. Initials of Reference.

M.R.O. 1—82 400—22-11-80

27.36

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

pension DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1103 Press / Mis.

Dated 15. 11 1882.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

(1)

Chief Secy. A. Mosby 28.10.82

To

His Excellency the Right Honorable
Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff
the Governor of Madras in Council,

The humble petition of S. Gnana-
prasasam English Clerk Collector's
Office Tinnevelly.

Most respectfully Showeth,

That,

Your Excellency's humble petitioner is a Native Christian of Tinnevelly, educated and trained by the Rev. Dr. Pope, in the S. P. G. Mission Institution at Sawyerpuram.

2. The Rev. J. Richards, late Government Inspector of Schools being under orders from Government to open a number of Taluq Schools in the District, and satisfied after a careful examination as to petitioner's qualifications for a teacher, appointed him, petitioner being then 24 years of age, as the Head Master of the Government Taluq School at Dindigul in the Madura District on the 15th April 1856. From that date up to January 1867, embracing a period of 10 years and 9 months, petitioner was paid entirely from Government Revenues.

3. Your Excellency's petitioner experienced very great difficulty in starting the School. He commenced it with only 3 boys in a Butler's Choultry. The Government Officials and the Hindu Temple Managers as well as the influencial members of the Community, not relishing the idea of such a School as the one contemplated by the Government, showed a determined opposition and stoutly refused to send their children to be educated in the School: and this they did even before the Inspector of Schools, when he spoke to them on the subject. But the Inspector told them in plain terms that the object of the Government was to educate all classes, alike without any distinction of Caste or Creed, and also gave your Excellency's petitioner strict injunctions in their presence never to give

the

the least room to any of their Caste prejudices in the School. About a fortnight after the Inspector left the place, the Choultry in which the School was held, and which had no doors then, was so filled up in the night with the beams and other furniture belonging to the Temple Car as to allow no room for the boys to sit and learn. As the Tahsildar and the Sub-Division Sheristadar sympathized with the Temple Managers and as the Sub Collector was indifferent about these illegal proceedings, petitioner had through the Inspector of Schools to complain to the Collector of Madura and obtained an order from him after a fortnight to clear the Choultry at once; and the School was carried on ever afterwards without further molestation.

4. There were six other Schools started at the same time in the District, but this School of which petitioner was in charge, so distinguished itself both in strength and progress, that in a short time it was placed in the first Class, drawing 50 Rupees from Government for the Establishment.

5. The Strength of the School in 1860 was 150 and from 1864 to January 1867 the average number on the rolls was 200 Composed of all Classes of pupils — Brahmins, Pariahs, Vellalahs, Komuttiers, Weavers, Chetties, Vanniahs, Carpenters, Iron Smiths &c — the Majority being Brahmins. Your Excellency can form an idea what great difficulties petitioner had to surmount and what amount of Exertions he had to make to bring the School to such a state of Efficiency. It was indeed his constant practice for a long time to devise Ca[illegible]hemes and plans in the night, and to try se[illegible] carry them out during the day. In addi- and [illegible] to his regular School work, it was his tion [illegible] in the Morning and Evening to visit habit [illegible]le of the town in their houses and to the peop[illegible] them about the incomparably greater speak to th[illegible]

advantages

advantages they could secure for their Children by getting them Educated in this Government School than by sending them to the various pyal Schools that existed among them. Thus by his perseverance and indefatigable labors, he succeeded in winning the hearts of the people and of the Native Officials to such an Extent that before 3 years scarcely passed, the Choultry was found quite inadequate to accomodate all the Children that attended the School. Though an opposition School was started by the American Mission there, which proved somewhat injurious to the welfare of this School, yet petitioner was able by his strenuous Efforts, to Counteract the evil and to maintain the School in its Efficiency and numbers.

6. In the Year 1857, Your Excellency's petitioner was ordered by Government to examine the 35 Candidates that applied from different parts of the District for Taluq Maistry's work and to report upon the results, which he did to the entire satisfaction of the District Engineer.

7. In the Years 1858 and 1859, petitioner voluntarily undertook to prepare out of School hours 30 Adults for the U. C. S. Examinations and succeeded in getting 19 of them passed and subsequently employed as Gumastahs in Taluq Cutcheries and Post offices.

8. Further in the Year 1860, petitioner endeavored to set before H. S. Thomas Esq Acting Sub Collector, Somasundram Mudaliar the then Tahsildar and Vencat Row the Sub Division Sheristadar, the necessity and desirability of having a more Commodious and substantial building for the School and secured the interest and sympathy of these Gentlemen in accomplishing the desired object. So when His Excellency Sir Charles Trevelly on a late Governor of Madras paid a visit to the District

and

and this School, the Sub-Collector kindly presented to him a Statement prepared by petitioner on the Subject, which His Excellency was kindly pleased to approve and Encouraged the Community to help such a laudable object himself setting them a noble example by subscribing Rs 100 as well as granting a plot of ground and Granite stones of the Old Fort walls for the School. This School building which was erected in the parade ground there at a Cost of Rs 4000 is a standing Monument of Your Excellency's petitioner's Services and exertions in the Cause of Education and for the Good of the Country.

9. Besides, with a view to improve the Morality and Civilization of the people and to Create a taste for reading among the pupils and the public at large petitioner Consulted with several Educated Gentlemen both European and Native, and with their Co-operation succeeded in forming a Literary Club, petitioner taking the lead as Secretary and arranging for Lectures to be delivered both in English and Tamil by Europeans and Natives on Saturday Evenings.

10. In this way, petitioner labored hard in the Government Educational line for the space of 10 years and 9 months. During the whole of this period, petitioner never looked after his own interests, but devoted himself entirely to Government and the Good of the people. Consequently, before petitioner left the School, many of the pupils were sent up for higher Education to the Madura Zillah School; and several passed very Creditably the 4th & 5th Grade Teachers' Certificate Examinations and were employed as [illegible]chers in Grant-in-Aid Schools. It may be [illegible]ther mentioned that, as the fruit of petitioner's [illegible]rious work in this School, no fewer than [illegible] his former pupils, besides the above-said [illegible]s are to be found Employed in different [illegible]ments, a few of whom in respectable posts [illegible] Rs 100 and Rs 150 per Mensem.

11.

(5)

11. Under Circumstances Connected with the Continued ill-health of his wife for 2 years, petitioner felt compelled by the advice of an American Doctor to seek a change in Tinnevelly her native place. But as a former application for leave for the same purpose had been refused, and as the precarious state of his wife's health required an immediate removal, petitioner foolishly and unadvisedly resigned his post on the 16th of January 1867 and Came away to Tinnevelly. Here after his wife recovered, he obtained a footing in the Huzur Establishment on the 1st of May 1867; and so a break of 3½ months has occurred in his Service.

12. Your Excellency's petitioner now Comes to understand to his great regret, that according to the Pension Rules, in consequence of this break, he is liable to forfeit the whole of his above-described Valuable and active Services. He now most bitterly repents of the foolish step he had so abruptly and unadvisedly taken, through ignorance of the Pension rules.

Your Excellency's humble petitioner therefore most respectfully begs Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to Consider his as a special Case and grant that the break of 3½ Months (from 16th January to 30th April 1867) in his Service may be Commuted into Private Affairs' leave without pay and thus protect him from forfeiting a considerable portion of his Pensionable Services.

Your Excellency's humble petitioner here solicits permission to introduce two Extracts in similar Cases for Your Excellency's information, and Your Excellency will thereby see that the favor begged is not without a precedent.

(1) From Board's Proceedings for May 1871.

"For one month without pay, to be granted retrospectively from date of resignation, to Mr Guanasagara Rowe of Arcot Talug, who was removed to Chittur Talug for disobeying Collector's orders relative to Collection of arrears of revenue."

(2) From a letter from the Treasury Officer Tinnevelly to the Accountant General dated 16th Jany 1875, No 160.

"Sadasivan

"Sadasivan Pillai Classifier in the Revenue Settlement Department on Rs 30 who had been on leave for 9 months from 1st June 1871 Applied to the Collector for an Extension of leave up to 30th September 1872 on production of Medical Certificate, but the Collector removed him on the 1st March 1872 and reemployed him on the 1st October 1872.

2. As the Collector has now cancelled his former order and granted Sadasivan Pillai Leave on Medical Certificate from 1st March to 30th September 1872 in order that his past services may not be forfeited, I have the honor to request that the necessary Corrections may be made in the Pay Abstracts and Leave Statements from March to September 1872, and that intimation thereof may be given to this office."

Accountant General's Reply thereon.

"Has the honor to state that the necessary Alterations have been made in the Abstracts and Registers in this Office as requested."

Palamcottah
24th October 1882

S. Gnanaprakasam
English Clerk.

(7)

The following are a few of Your Excellency's petitioner's Certificates which petitioner most humbly begs Your Excellency will be most kindly pleased to peruse:—

I. Extract from a letter from E. C. Caldwell Esq. Inspector of Schools dated Trichinopoly Feb. 2 1860.

"I am unwilling to leave this Country without expressing to you my sense of the patience and judgement which I consider you have displayed in the Conduct of your School, under very great difficulties so as to have raised it to the highest rank among the Taluq Schools of the District and it will afford me very great pleasure on my return to find your labors meeting with the like success."

II. Extract from Minutes of Consultation of His Excellency Sir Charles Trevellyan K. C. B. the Governor of Madras dated 8th February 1860.

"Dindigal."

"31. The Taluq School was a painfully interesting sight. The Master was a Native Christian from Tinnevelly, who had been making highly meritorious exertions to meet the demands upon him, but he was evidently overtasked. The School was held in a Choultry erected by the Butler of a former Commanding Officer for the accomodation of travellers. It was crowded with boys, and there were no windows to admit the air. The Master had only one Assistant; and a large class of 30 or 40 intelligent-looking Children was unprovided with any proper instruction. An adult Class attended after School hours to be prepared by the Head Master for the Civil Service Examination. There was no Library. The inhabitants are going to subscribe to build a School-house with the assistance of a Government Grant; and the Choultry will then be restored to its legitimate use."

III. Extract from a letter from the Honorable T. Clarke Esq. dated 13th February 1860.

"I am requested by His Excellency the Governor to intimate to you that His Excellency was pleased with your exertions to do justice to your important Charge & that he has written to Mr. Arbuthnot about the appointment of a 3rd Master. His Excellency also requests that his

name

Pen

(1882) DEPARTMENT.

From

THE Private SECRETARY

TO THE RIGHT HON. THE GOVERNOR,

To

The Chief SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

DEPARTMENT.

Dated 29th October 1882

Reced.

ENCLOSURE.

No.

Subject.

Transfers a petition from S

Veerapragasam praying that the break of 3½ months in his service may be considered as private affairs leave in granting him pension

(11)

name may be put down in your Subscription list as a Subscriber of 100 Rs. to the new School house, which is to be handsomely made out of the roughly dressed Stones in lower Fort wall which the Government will Contribute in addition to the usual Grant in Aid. The Governor is of opinion the School should be erected on the edge of the Parade Ground pointing to the Fort at the end of the Main Street. I hope your health will Continue good and that your Exertions may be Crowned with Success."

IV. From the Rev. E. Webb American Missionary Dindigal dated 2d August 1858.

"I have very Sincere Satisfaction in furnishing to Swamidasen Gnanapracasam an assurance of my friendly and Christian regard and assuring him of my interest in his welfare. I think he has a field of great usefulness before him in his Connection with the Government Schools and it is my belief that he has a desire to do good and lead the youth under his care to a Spiritual knowledge of Christ. He has been eminently successful during the period of more than 2 years in which he has been employed in this place."

V. From the Right Rev. Bishop Sargent. D.D. dated 28th November 1870.

"I have much pleasure in stating that in the prospect of promotion, Gnanapracasam bears a very high Character among our Christian Community as a thoroughly upright honest man diligent in his business and exemplary in all things. In the post he formerly held in the Educational Department I know that he was highly prized for his Efficiency and Correct Conduct."

(True Extracts)

Gnanapracasam
English Clerk.

In No 1315

(9)

Petition from S. Gnanapragasam

Dated 24th October 1882

TRANSFERRED to the Chief Secretary to Government, Department,

(By Order.)

A. Awdry CAPTAIN, R.E.,
Private Secretary.

Camp. Mysore
~~GOVERNMENT HOUSE~~,
29th October 188

Pension (1882.) DEPARTMENT.

No. 1315

From

S. Gnanapragasam
English Clerk
Collector's Office
Tinnevelly
thro' ~~No.~~ the Private Secy
to H.E. the Governor

Dated 24 October
Recd. 3rd Nov 1882.

SUBJECT.

Praying that the break of 3½ months in his service may be considered as private affairs leave in granting him pension.

With Order
1103

Order thereon 15th & November 1882 No. 1103.

Petitioner's case will be duly considered when his pension application comes before Government.

To
S. Gnanapragasam
English Clerk, Collector's Office
Tinnevelly

Rec'd 15-11-82