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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

## Government of Madras.

*Pension* DEPARTMENT.

|          |      |               |
|----------|------|---------------|
| G.O. No. | 103  | Press<br>Mis. |
| Dated    | 9-3- | 1867          |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,  
2nd May 1866.*

No. 8. Read the following letter from Mrs. P. DRYSDALE, Widow of the late THOMAS DRYSDALE, Preventive Officer, Sea Customs, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 21st February 1866.

I have the honor to hand you herewith my Memorial to His Excellency the Governor in

THE LATE PREVENTIVE OFFICER, SEA CUSTOMS.—We regret to have to report the death of a very worthy public servant, namely, that of Mr. Thomas Drysdale, Preventive Officer in the Sea Customs. Mr. Drysdale arrived at Madras under most unfortunate circumstances, having had to swim for his life from the "Lord Eldon", which was wrecked at Madras in the year 1844. He subsequently entered the local Police Force as a Constable, in which capacity by his steadiness, sobriety, and faithful discharge of duty, he afforded the utmost satisfaction. Ultimately, Mr. Drysdale was appointed Preventive Officer at the Sea Customs. The duties which devolved on him, as such, required, on the one hand, the greatest watchfulness and care, and constant exposure to the sun and weather at all times in an open boat while visiting the shipping in the Roadstead; on the other hand the greatest self-command and courtesy were necessary to avoid giving offence to the men of various dispositions with whom he was brought in contact in the discharge of his rather unenviable duties, and we believe that Mr. Drysdale never at any time gave occasion for dissatisfaction to the Commanders of any of the vessels that came under his scrutiny. He was universally esteemed for his correct conduct; but above all for his kind-heartedness;—he had all the qualities of a good old Salt, and was ever in the foremost ranks when help was needed. If there was a fire or a wreck, Mr. Drysdale was almost always first on the spot. In 1853, when Madras was visited by a terrific storm, which committed frightful havoc among the shipping, when the beach was strewn with wrecks, and large vessels (among which were the "Lutchmee", the "Aboukir" and "Serampore") were totally lost, Mr. Drysdale rendered useful service which was favorably noticed by Government in a public document that was published in the Fort Saint George Gazette. We understand that Mr. Drysdale died on the 19th instant after three days' illness from the effects of a sunstroke received while on duty, and that he has left a family utterly unprovided for. Men of Mr. Drysdale's class are much wanted in this country for the performance of duty which cannot be entrusted to Natives, and which requires great vigor and powers of endurance with thorough honesty; it would be a wise policy if Government, by providing for their families after their death, held out inducements to such men to settle in the country and take employment under Government.

Council, which I humbly beg you will be pleased to lay before His Excellency in due course.

2. In the hope that it may be taken into consideration that my late husband rendered public services which elicited the approval of Government, I have taken the liberty to attach, marginally, an Article that appeared in the *Madras Times* of the 25th October last, having reference thereto, and to which I beg to call your attention.

To

THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL,  
*Fort Saint George.*

The humble Memorial of P. DRYSDALE, Widow  
of the late THOMAS DRYSDALE, Preventive  
Officer in Her Majesty's Sea Customs, Madras.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That your Memorialist's husband first arrived on these shores under the most unfortunate circumstances, having been obliged to swim ashore to save his life from the *Lord Eldon*, which was wrecked at Madras in the year 1844. That your Memorialist's husband subsequently obtained a berth as second Mate on the Ship *Worcester*, and afterwards entered the Madras Police as a Constable, and on account of his attention to his duty, and sober and steady conduct, received the highest pay given to that class of Public Servants, as will be seen by the Certificate annexed, (marked A) granted by Captain Frederick Clerk, the then Police Magistrate under whom he did duty. That on account of his approved good conduct, and faithful discharge of duty, he was appointed, on a vacancy occurring in 1853, on the recommendation of the late Captain Christopher Biden, (vide letter marked B) Preventive Officer. That in this capacity your Memorialist's husband had very heavy and arduous duties to perform, having daily to cross the surf, and visit the various vessels that arrived in the Roadstead. That in the discharge of these duties he was necessarily obliged, at great risk to his health and safety of his person, to expose himself to the sun in an open boat; but though such was the case, he unflinchingly adhered to the faithful performance of duty until he was struck down by a stroke of the sun, under which he sank and died, having served the Government for 19

years as shown in the margin. But his salary having been barely adequate to support his family, he was consequently, during his life-time,

As Constable, 7 years.

As Preventive Officer and Yard Supervisor, 12 years.

unable to provide for any contingency like the present,

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2. That your Memorialist's husband at all times readily obeyed the call of duty, and was ever the foremost to afford assistance on occasions of fires or shipwreck. In the year 1853, when Madras was visited by a tremendous gale, and several vessels were wrecked, your Memorialist's husband rendered useful service, and Government in Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 110, dated 19th April 1853, noticed with pleasure the flattering testimony borne to those services by the Chief Magistrate.

3. Your Memorialist now begs to appeal to Government, and to solicit their commiserate consideration, being left with three children totally unprovided for, and she begs that in consideration of her husband's good and meritorious services, Government will be pleased to grant her such a pension as in their generous consideration may seem fit. For which act of kindness, as in duty bound, she will ever pray.

MADRAS,  
30th October 1865.

(Signed) P. DRYSDALE,  
Widow of the late Thomas Drysdale,  
Preventive Officer, Sea Customs.

A.

Constable Thomas Drysdale has served in the Madras Police since the 23rd January 1846. I have always found him trustworthy, attentive to his duty, and particularly sober. His conduct has been such as to ensure his gradual promotion, and he is now receiving the highest rate of pay.

MADRAS, GENERAL POLICE OFFICE,  
5th March 1850.

(Signed) FRED. CLERK,  
Police Magistrate.

B.

MY DEAR UNDERWOOD,

If you should require a Preventive Officer, I can strongly recommend the bearer, Mr. Drysdale, although I shall be very sorry to lose the services of so good a Constable; he is a most excellent and trustworthy man.

1st June 1853.

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) C. BIDEN.

C.

Mr. Drysdale performs his duties satisfactorily.

(Signed) W. E. UNDERWOOD,  
Collector, Sea Customs.

D.

I have been highly satisfied with the manner in which Mr. Drysdale performs his duty. Though on the list as Preventive Officer he has really for years been Yard Supervisor. I hope, that on the establishment being re-arranged, he will succeed to the increased pay I have recommended for that post. He has had great experience, and manages the yard capitally.

9th December 1861.

(Signed) C. COLLETT,  
Ag. Collector, Sea Customs.

E.

The new establishment restored Mr. Drysdale to his place of Preventive Officer, which he has conducted to my entire satisfaction.

20th July 1863.

(Signed) C. SHUBRICK,  
Collector, Sea Customs.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,  
2nd May 1866.*

Referred to the Collector of Sea Customs, for his remarks, in communication with the Commissioner of Police and the Superintendent of Marine.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,  
28th March 1866.

(Signed) J. GROSE,  
Acting Under Secretary.

No. 9. From the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 16th April 1866, No. 380.

Agreeably to the Order of Government, dated 28th ultimo, I have the honor to forward copies of remarks by the Commissioner (a) of Police, and Superintendent (b) of Marine, regarding the late Mr. Drysdale.

(a.) Dated 13th April 1866, No. 920.  
(b.) Dated 16th April 1866, No. 1558.

(c.) Since 25th September 1863.  
\* Vide Extracts annexed to Memorial.

2. During the period (c) Mr. Drysdale served under my orders, he afforded me every satisfaction, and fully bore out the favorable testimonials\* recorded of him by my predecessors, Messrs. Underwood, Collet, and Shubrick.

3. I have little doubt that his death was caused by exposure incurred in the performance of his duty, which, for the last eight months of his service, involved going from one ship to another in an open boat from 7 A.M. till 12 or 1 P.M. for the purpose of collecting Boat Notes.

4. The Memorial with its enclosures are herewith returned.

No. 920 of 1865-66.

MEMORANDUM.

The late Thomas Drysdale served for seven and half years as a Constable of the Madras Police, and appears to have borne a good character. He has left a widow and three children. The eldest is employed by Messrs. Dymes Cartwright & Co., on a salary of Rupees 60. The other two are girls aged about 15 and 12.

2. Mrs. Drysdale has no means of support save the salary of her son. She lives with her brother, who is employed by Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., on a salary of Rupees 140 per mensem; but he has a wife and eight children to maintain.

MADRAS, POLICE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,  
13th April 1866.

(Signed) C. S. HEARN,  
Commissioner of Police.

To the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras.

From the Superintendent of Marine, to the Collector of Sea Customs; dated Madras, 16th April 1866, No. 1558.

In reply to your letter, marginally noted, I have the honor to inform you, the late Thomas Drysdale was never under my orders, but that from personal knowledge of him as a Government servant in the Sea Custom Department, I am aware that he was a very worthy, steady, and energetic Officer.

4th April 1866, No. 350.

2. Mr. Dalrymple, under whom he served in the Police, speaks very highly of him.

(True Copies).

(Signed) J. H. BLAIR,  
Collector of Sea Customs.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,  
2nd May 1866.*

No. 10. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, dated Fort Saint George, 2nd May 1866, No. 106.

I am directed to forward the accompanying Memorial, addressed to this Government, from the widow of Mr. Thomas Drysdale, late Preventive Officer, Sea Customs, Madras, setting forth the public services of the deceased, and praying that a pension may be conferred on her.

2. The late Mr. Drysdale's services extended over a period of 19 years, the last 12 of which were passed as Preventive Officer, in which capacity, as indeed in that of a Constable, the office previously held by him, he appears, as testified by his immediate superiors, to have done good and efficient service. It will be seen from the letter from the Collector of Sea Customs, of which a copy is enclosed, that, in his opinion, the immediate cause of Mr. Drysdale's death was exposure incurred in the performance of his duty.

3. Under these circumstances, and looking to the smallness of the salary, viz., Rupees 60 per mensem, at present received by her son, on whom the widow and her two daughters are entirely dependent, the Governor in Council begs leave to recommend that a monthly pension of Rupees (25) twenty-five be conferred on Mrs. Drysdale, to be reduced to Rupees 15 per mensem on the marriage of both her daughters.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,  
*Chief Secretary.*

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,  
23rd June 1866.*

No. 39. Read the following letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Simla, 7th June 1866, No. 889.

Financial Department.

In reply to your letter, dated 2nd May 1866, No. 106, I am directed to state that the recommendation of the Government of Madras for the grant of a pension to the widow of the late Mr. Thomas Drysdale, a Preventive Officer on the Sea Customs Establishment, will be referred for the favorable consideration of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

No. 40. ORDER THEREON, 23rd June 1866, No. 155.  
Communicated to Mrs. P. Drysdale, for her information.  
(True Extract).

*Acting Chief Secretary.*

To Mrs. P. Drysdale, Black Town, Madras.  
Collector of Sea Customs.

Exd. J. H. Burns

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,  
5th November 1866.*

Read the following :—

No. 5. Extract from a Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to the Government of India in the Financial Department, No. 208 of 1866, dated the 31st August.

Paragraph 11. A pension of Rupees 25 a month may be granted, under the circumstances stated, to the widow of the late Mr. Thomas Drysdale, to be reduced, as proposed by you, to Rupees 15 a month, on the marriage of both her daughters.

Letter dated 7th June 1866, No. 115.

No. 2785.

Ordered that a copy of the above paragraph be forwarded to the Government of Fort Saint George, with reference to letter from this Department, dated 7th June 1866, No. 889 ; also that a copy be furnished to the Accountant General, Madras.

SIMLA, FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT,  
18th October 1866.

(Signed) J. E. COOKE,  
*Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

No. 6. ORDER THEREON, 5th November 1866, No. 266.  
Communicated to Mrs. P. Drysdale, with reference to the Memorial received with her letter of the 21st February 1866, to the Pension Department, and, also, to the Examiner of Claims.  
(True Extract).

*L. L. M.*

*Secretary to Government.*

To Mrs. P. Drysdale.  
To the Collector of Sea Customs.  
„ Pension Department.  
„ Accountant General.  
„ Examiner of Claims.

Ed. J. H. Burns.

*repor. files*

Pension 1866 Departt

W. 7188.

Proceedings of Government

P. Marine Deptt

W. 266

Ordered  
Recd. November 1866.

Commenting a Departt  
from the Right Honble the Secy  
of State for India granting a  
pension of Rs 200 a month  
to the widow of the late  
Mr Thomas Drysdale  
to be reduced to Rs 150 a  
month on the marriage  
of both her daughters.

C. B. 113.

W. 64 Pension Departt  
Memo.

With reference  
to Pres. of Govt of the 5<sup>th</sup> instant  
W. 266 Marine Deptt, the  
undersigned has the honor  
to request the Collector of  
Sea Customs to forward  
to this Deptt a Register  
of application in the prescribed  
form, in view to the issue  
of a Permanent Payable order  
in the name of Mrs P. Drysdale.

8/27/11/66.

J.P.

!!  
Sea Customs House  
Madras 1<sup>st</sup> March 1867.

N<sup>o</sup> 195.

From J. H. Blair Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Collector of Sea Customs  
To The Honble A. J. Maitland  
Chief Secretary to Government  
Fort St. George.

Sir

With reference to your Acting  
Under Secretary's official Memorandum No.  
64, of 27<sup>th</sup> November 1866, I have the honor to  
forward a Register of application for Pensions  
giving particulars required concerning the  
widow of the late Mr. Drysdale.

2 The Printed Form of Register  
was only received from the Superintendent of  
Stationery on the 20<sup>th</sup> Ultimo. Hence the  
delay in submitting it.

I have the honor to be  
Sir

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Servant

Wm Blair

Collector Sea Customs.

Wm Blair

