

Number of pages. 0
2. Date of receipt 20-4-35
3. Initials of Reference
18.734

M.R.O. 1-82,400-22-11-80.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Pension

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 340

~~Pres-~~
Mis.

Dated 28 60

1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 72 Hurmool Collector's Office
From, 24th September 187
To, J. A. St. Chase Esquire
Collector of Hurmool

The Honble A. J. Arbuthnot.
Chief Secretary to Govt.
Fort St. George
Sir,

In reply to Government
Order dated 19th ultimo No. 256.
I have the honor to inform
you that I have dismissed
from the service Mr Blake
the Head Clerk, Savat Singh
the Muzur Duffadar and
reduced the English Record
Keeper. all these persons being
concerned in filling up
the gratuity pension regis-
ters regarding 40 of which
I am making an enquiry.

The Muzur Cash Keeper
I have severely reprimanded
and expressed hopes that
the Treasury Deputy Collector
Kumarasingh now absent

now leave may be pensioned
as unfit to hold Office any
longer being worn out by
age and sickness.

I have entered fully
into details on the subject
in my letter N^o 284 dated
24th Instant to the Board of
Revenue and have requested
them to send a copy of that
letter to Government.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Yours most obed^t. Serv^t.

J. C. M. S.
Collector

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 18th October 1867.

Read the following letter from T. A. N. CHASE, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 24th September 1867, No. 284:—

1. I have the honour to inform you that I have found it necessary to dismiss from the service my Head English Writer Mr. Blake. There are circumstances of such extreme suspicion against him that I am convinced he is unfit to continue in the public service, though I find it impossible to procure evidence to support a judicial inquiry. The reasons for suspicion have arisen as follows:—

2. The Deputy Collector Comarasawmy reported to me on the 12th June that a pensioner on 2½ rupees monthly salary named Baday Sahib had obtained his pension on false pretences. I immediately put Baday Sahib on his trial for cheating, and convicted him under Section 417 of the Penal Code, and sentenced him to one year's simple (as he was an old man) imprisonment. Against this decision Baday Sahib instituted a regular appeal, which has been dismissed by the Session Court, and my decision has been confirmed.

3. The trial elicited the fact that Baday Sahib was dismissed from the service in 1849 by Mr. Phillips, the Agent, and that he obtained his pension on the pretence that he had lost his appointment on the introduction of Mofussil Police in 1860, and that up to that time he was a Cutcherry official then in the service, as I reported at once to Government, when recommending Baday Sahib's pension should be cancelled, and as the Session Judge aptly words it in his proceedings on the appeal—"The Huzoor officials in the office must, of course, have been cognizant of the deception, (and further investigation would doubtless indicate who connived at and furthered it); but this does not relieve the prisoner from liability for his own share in it."

4. I purposely deferred taking any further steps in the matter till after the appeal was decided.

5. I called then on Mr. Blake, who, till this year, has had very great influence in the District, as I can show below, for his account of the matter. He says, on his orders the register was made out by Kondur Senkaraya, then second English Writer, and now the English Record-keeper; that though he (Mr. Blake) had been in the office for eight years at the time, that he did not know all the Huzoor Daloyets by sight, because there were some fifty men under the old arrangements, and all he did was to fill up Column 3 regarding identification, and that he had never seen Baday Sahib before.

6. I then took a statement from Kondur Senkaraya. He had been in the office for twenty-seven years, and says he filled up the register from what Baday Sahib stated, that no other inquiry into accounts or pay abstracts was made, and that he did not know whether Baday Sahib had been a Huzoor Peon or not.

7. During Baday Sahib's trial, I examined the Treasurer Kadiri Kristnamurti Row, who has been, with the exception of two years, in the Cumbum Talook, in the Head Office, since the assumption in 1839; he says he does not know whether Baday Sahib was in the service or not on the introduction of the new Police. I showed him the old Baravard (pay abstract) which he says shows that Baday Sahib was dismissed in 1849.

8. The Duffadar Savat Sing also entered the service in 1839, and has served continuously ever since in the Huzoor; says, Baday Sahib left the service in Mr. Phillips' time, and was succeeded by Nassurudin, his son. He did not report this because he did not know why a pension was given to Baday Sahib.

9. As Mr. Blake's influence has been so great hitherto, I look on all the others concerned in this grossly culpable case of reticence, as merely his creatures who did not dare say a word on the subject which might implicate him.

Baday Sahib's Report

By

Mr. Phillips

Kurnool

To the Chief Secretary

Government

Madras

24th Sept 1867

O. A. N. Chase

Collector

Madras

and Secretary

to the English

Record-keeper

in the office

of the District

10. When I entered the District, as I said before, Mr. Blake was supreme, and apparently exercised a sort of right of nomination to all appointments, which I found fault with, and I told him it was not his business, and that he must in future confine himself to his own office and the duties of it, and to show him he was not superior even in that, I made an appointment without consulting him in any way. Mr. Blake felt his influence so much affected, that he told me he had lost his power, and was as a babe in the office. Another suspicious fact regarding Mr. Blake is the amount of money he seems to have at his command. Just prior to my arrival in the District, he built a house; since my arrival he has just completed the repairs, almost entire erection, I might say, of another house, and he has also applied for land to build two other houses.

11. I am aware Mr. Blake says the last house is Mrs. McKenzies, but Mr. Blake is separated from his own wife and Mrs. McKenzie is living with him, so the probability is that the money is Mr. Blake's. To his own wife he sends 50 Rupees monthly which leaves him Rupees 100 to spend monthly. His pay was only increased to Rupees 150 in 1865, previously to which it was only Rupees 100. How he has, therefore, the means to carry on his building operations is unaccountable.

12. I regret to add I have had lists of a great many (thirty or forty) other pensioners who have received pensions on false pretences given in to me, regarding which I am making inquiries; and as far as I have proceeded, there is not a particle of doubt concerning these allegations. For, the statements of all the pensioners I have taken down are directly contrary to the statements filled in, in the Pension Registers.

13. There is yet another circumstance regarding which there is cause for suspicion. Several pensioners and receivers of compassionate allowances had got re-employment in the service, and on the Deputy Collector in charge of Treasury, Comarasawmy, applying for information regarding these payments, one of my predecessors replied by Docket No. 413, dated 17th September 1866, that there was no objection to discharged peons enjoying compassionate allowance seeking other employment, and on the strength of this several pensioners were employed as peons and received both pensions and full pay of their appointments.

14. This of itself shows connivance on the part of some one, and the suspicion can fall on no one but Mr. Blake, the Head English Writer, who countersigned the docket, and did not bring the Board's Standing Order, No. 408, on the subject to the Collector's notice.

15. As this was diametrically opposed to the Board's Standing Circular, No. 408, directing that pensions of servants of Government should merge in the salary of the office in the event of re-employment, I have directed the Treasury Deputy not to make the double payments, and have cancelled my predecessor's order.

16. The Board are aware that a great deal of trust has to be placed on the English Head Writer, and that Mr. Pelly in his letter, dated November 28th, 1865, when recommending the increased pay of Rupees 150, said "Collectors must be very dependent on this Officer," &c., &c., "that his position is one of much importance." Mr. Blake can no longer enjoy my confidence to the extent which is necessary for an Officer of so high a position. For if he has not in each of these pension cases received bribes, he has without a particle of inquiry which, the Collector must have supposed, he instituted, either in the records or old pay abstracts, had all the Registers filled up, and many falsely showing a gross disregard of the interests of Government.

17. I forward, in original, Urzi from Heraman Sing, referred to Mr. Blake by Mr. Minchin, The hand-writing in black ink is which shows an inquiry was ordered. Mr. Blake made no inquiry, but simply had entered on the back the man's service (which has been counted) and age, as stated by the applicant. On this Mr. Minchin supposing an inquiry had been made, ordered the name of the man to be entered with a special remark. This also shows how much Mr. Blake has been trusted.

18. The English Record-keeper, then second English Writer, Kondor Senkaraya, who wrote out all the Registers, and according to his own explanation without any inquiry, I intend to reduce to a less paid appointment.

19. The Duffadar Sawat Sing I have dismissed, because, as he says in the particular case of Baday Sahib, the Huzoor Peon dismissed in 1849, and who got a pension as having lost his service on the introduction of the new Police 1860—"He (Baday Sahib) left the service in the time of Mr. Phillips, and his appointment was given to Nasserudin. I have done service ever since the "zuft (1839, assumption of the estate by the East India Company). I do not know why he (Baday Sahib) gets pension, and I did not therefore report this before." Mr. Minchin relied so much on this Duffadar's word, that in his letter to Government, No. 27, dated 7th July 1865, he says "these (applicants for pension) Statements were checked not only by their appearance which is often "delusive, but by the personal knowledge of most of them held by Sawat Sing, the Duffadar of the "Collector's Daloyets, who was himself thirty-five years in the Nawab's service."

20. I regret that I cannot acquit Comarasawmy, Treasury Deputy Collector, of blame in the matter of these pensions. For when the Tahsildar of Koilguntla reported to him that a pension had been sanctioned for a peon Venkata in his Talook, who had only been in service for six years, Comarasawmy on the day following the receipt of this report paid that peon the whole amount of the back pension. Considering, however, Comarasawmy's long service, and latterly his failing health, which so affected his head, that, when he last left on sick leave, he could hardly add up a string of a dozen numbers correctly, I think he should be ordered to take his pension, as he promised me he would do. He is decidedly unfit to hold the appointment of Deputy Collector any longer.

21. The Cash-keeper, who has been in the service since 1839, is much to blame, for he must have known that some of these pensions had been improperly obtained, and yet, without any report, (till after inquiry had commenced,) he pays the pensions unhesitatingly; but as he had nothing to do in the inquiry regarding the pensions, I do not think it necessary to punish him further than with a severe reprimand.

22. I trust the Board will sanction the steps I have taken in this most disagreeable matter.

As the Government, in Order, No.—, dated —, requested me to inform them of the steps I have taken in this matter, I shall feel obliged if the Board will forward a copy of this letter to the Chief Secretary.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Petition.

1. The Board are of opinion that Mr. Chase has acted promptly and judiciously in unravelling the pension frauds to which this letter refers.

2. As far as the Board can judge from the information before them, the Acting Collector had no choice but to dismiss Mr. Blake and Sawat Sing. They doubt whether reduction is a sufficient punishment for Sankaraya.

3. With regard to the Deputy Collector Comarasawmy Moodelly, the Board observe that he was the first to give the Collector information with respect to these frauds, and that the circumstance referred to in paragraph 20 is not insusceptible of explanation.

4. The Collector will report the result of his further inquiries with regard to pensions supposed to have been procured on false pretences.

5. These Proceedings will be communicated to Government, with reference to their Order (number and date unknown), desiring the Collector to report the result of the steps taken by him in the case of Baday Sahib.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

To the Chief Secretary to Government.
" the Collector of Kurnool,
with enclosure.

Copy to the Accountant General.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

Box of Great Dane Dogs
Dec. 26 27 19 August 1865.

London 1867.

Department

No 578.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 18th October 1867.

84023-4-
Feb-24th -

No. 6,805.

Requesting Collector of Kurnool to report the result of his further enquiries with regard to pensions supposed to have been procured on false pretences and communicating Board's Proceedings.

Order, March 28th Goldthorpe 1867

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