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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Pension

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>822</i> <i>408</i>	Press Mis.
Dated	<i>30</i> <i>11-11</i>	1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

say

2611-35

1 B

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 314.

FROM

THE HONORABLE R. S. ELLIS, C. B.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to forward to the Government of India the accompanying Memorial from Mrs. H. A. French, the widow of the late Mr. H. A. French, 1st Uncovenanted Assistant to the Chief Secretary, who died early in 1866, leaving his

large family* without any provision other than an allowance from the Madras Widows' Fund, of Rupees 30 to the widow for life, and Rupees

* Consisting of a widow and eight children.

20 to a son aged twelve, payable till he attained the age of eighteen.

2. I am to remark that the Secretary of State was addressed by this Government shortly after Mr. French's decease, with a strong recommendation that the prayer of a similar Memorial from the widow might be granted, by the allotment of a suitable provision; but this request was

refused, on the ground that it was contrary to the general practice to grant such provision. Copies of the Proceedings† in that case are enclosed.

† 26th April 1866, No. 163.

3. The Memorialist in her present appeal cites several cases of grants which have been made under special circumstances, in recent years, and prays that her case may be similarly treated. I am to state that the instances are correctly cited, and that they appear to be very similar in their circumstances to those of the present application.

4. I am to point out that the sole resources of this family of nine persons are Rupees 30 for the life of the widow and Rupees 20 for four years for her son; while her husband's salary was Rupees 500 per mensem. It is quite true that the advanced salary given to Mr. French in 1858 came into effect only as prices rose very greatly, so as materially to diminish the value of the boon as a means of making provision for a family. As it was thought possible that the absence of a specific statement as to the property left by Mr. French might have weighed with the Secretary of State in inducing a refusal of the grant sought for, Mrs. French has, in reply to a note on the subject, stated that her husband left no property whatever.

5. I am to state that the Government of Madras abstain from again remarking upon the valuable services which Mr. French rendered, further than to observe that they were such as, in their opinion, to justify their again applying to the Secretary of State for such grant as he may see fit to make to the widow and orphans, in case he should consider that the allowances formerly recommended were too large.

6. I am to request that the Memorial may be forwarded to the Secretary of State, and to solicit, on behalf of the Memorialist, the support of the Government of India.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
4th July 1868.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant.

Chief Secretary.

From Mrs. CAMILLA FRENCH, Widow of the late Mr. H. A. FRENCH, 1st Uncovenanted Assistant, Government Office, Chief Secretary's Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 9th March 1868.

I beg respectfully to forward the accompanying Memorial to the address of the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, praying for a re-consideration of my case, with reference to a decision of the Home Government declining to grant a small pensionary provision to myself and family.

2. I humbly trust that his Excellency the Governor in Council will be pleased to view my case favorably, and give his kind and able support to the application herewith forwarded.

To

THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

The humble Memorial of CAMILLA FRENCH,
widow of the late H. A. French, First Uncovenanted Assistant, Chief Secretary's Department,

SHEWETH,

That your Memorialist received with deep sorrow a copy of the Proceedings of the Madras Government, noted in the margin, communicating an extract from your Despatch, dated

Dated 29th August 1866, No. 326.

24th July 1866, declining to comply with her earnest prayer for a small pensionary provision for the support of herself and family, who are now left in almost utter destitution and distress.

2. Your Memorialist had cherished every expectation that some small aid would have been extended to her by Government, as they had dealt very considerably and liberally with the families of other servants similarly situated, although they held less responsible posts under the State than that filled with great credit by your Memorialist's late husband.

3. Your Memorialist's former appeal enlarged on the meritorious services rendered by her late husband, and to that appeal the testimonials granted to him by the highest officials were appended for your information. On this point, therefore, it would be superfluous for your Memorialist at present to dwell.

4. Your Memorialist's late husband risked both health and strength in the interests of the State. He labored unremittingly, even when suffering under severe bodily ailment. Although advised by his Medical Attendant as regards the dangers consequent on close application to his desk, and the sedentary nature of his work, if continued for any lengthened period, he still worked on, his sole aim and object being to discharge his duties without detriment to the Government.

5. Your Memorialist would respectfully observe that in your Despatch referred to above,

CIVIL AUDITOR'S OFFICE.

In 1846. Pension granted to Mrs. Charlotte Vint, widow, and her four sons and a daughter.....

RS. A. P.

50 0 0

GENERAL POST OFFICE.

In 1850. Pension granted to Mrs. Rose Neale, widow, and her four daughters, and three sons.....

20 0 0

CIVIL ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT.

In 1857. Pension granted to Mrs. Sarah Gaynor, widow, and her son and two daughters.....

16 8 0

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

In 1859. Pension granted to Mrs. Jane Oliver, widow.....

35 0 0

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, NORTH ARCOT.

In 1859. Pension granted to Mrs. Mary Anne Sadfort, widow, and her son and daughter.....

17 0 0

SEA CUSTOMS OFFICE.

In 1866. Pension granted to Mrs. P. Drysdale, widow, and her two daughters.....

25 0 0

RS.

* Mrs. A. French..... 50 per mensem.

Miss I. French..... 15 do. do.

Miss B. French..... 15 do. do.

The eldest daughter has since the grant of the pension been married.

Your Excellency states that "it is contrary to the general practice to grant pensions to the families of Uncovenanted Servants." It will, however, be seen from the cases specified in the margin that pensions have been awarded to the families of such servants, and that your Memorialist's case is similar to those who have enjoyed the bounty of the State, and were thus rescued from all the miseries attendant on poverty. The family* of the late Mr. Thomas French, an Uncovenanted First Assistant in the Revenue Department, is on the receipt of a liberal pen-

sion, and your Memorialist humbly submits that her case corresponds in all respects with that of the late Mr. T. French's family.

6. Your Memorialist has at present four daughters solely dependent on her for support, and a young son whom she has still to educate. Having been suddenly deprived of the prop and

stay of the family, your Memorialist and her children are, and have been since February 1866, sorely tried in the school of adversity. It is very difficult indeed for her, and those dependent on her for support, to live under their present painfully reduced condition.

7. Under these circumstances, your Memorialist entreats that your Excellency will graciously re-consider her hard case, and grant to her that indulgence which the benevolence of Government has not denied to those placed in the same unfortunate and painful situation as herself.

8. Should your Excellency still consider that her case is not entitled to be treated in all respects as the case of the family of the late Mr. T. French, your Memorialist would humbly implore that your Excellency will be pleased to award to her alone such a stipend as your Excellency may deem to be adequate to save her and her children from absolute want.

9. Your Memorialist places her fullest trust in your Excellency's benevolence, and she humbly beseeches that the helpless widow and orphans of an old and faithful servant may receive some consideration at the hands of Government, whose interests were held by that servant so precious that neither health nor life, nor the pressing admonitions of his Medical Adviser, could induce him to swerve from what he deemed his sacred duty to the State; and

For which act of charity your Memorialist, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(Signed) CAMILLA FRENCH.

MADRAS, 9th March 1868.

From Mrs. CAMILLA FRENCH, Widow of the late Mr. H. A. FRENCH, 1st Uncovenanted Assistant, Government Office, Chief Secretary's Department, to the Under Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 22nd June 1868.

In reply to your Official Memorandum, dated the 18th instant, I beg very respectfully to state that my Memorial therein referred to has been signed by me as directed, and that, my late husband having left no property whatever, I am solely dependent on the pension I receive from the Madras Widows' Fund, as stated in my Memorial.

Trusting you will kindly enlist your sympathy in behalf of the widow and orphans of the late H. A. French, I remain, &c.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

3B

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
19th November 1868.*

No. 57. Read the following letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Simla, 28th October 1868, No. 3356.

With reference to your letter, No. 314, dated the 4th July last, I am desired to state that the Memorial of the widow of the late Mr. H. A. French, therewith received, has been forwarded for the favorable orders of the Secretary of State for India, who has been asked to sanction a pension of 30 Rupees per mensem for life to Mrs. French, and Rupees 15 per mensem to each of her daughters till marriage or death.

No. 58. ORDER THEREON, 19th November 1868, No. 522.
Communicated to Mrs. Camilla French, Madras, and to the Pension Department.
(True Extract).

P. H. M. S.
Chief Secretary.

To Mrs. Camilla French.
To the Pension Department. ✓

Exd. J. H. Burns,

24 Jan 1869

1868.
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT

From
The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George.
To
The Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Financial Department.
Dated 4th July 1868.
Recd.
No. 314.
Enclosure.

Forwarding, for transmission to the Secretary of State, a Memorial from the widow of the late Mr. H. A. French, 1st Uncovenanted Assistant to the Chief Secretary, Madras, with a recommendation that her case may be reconsidered and some pensionary provision granted her.

Govt. of 1868; *Madras*
Pension of 1123
FINANCIAL.

To *F. No. 166*
MRS. CAMILLA FRENCH,
Esq., do., do.

Dated November, 19th.

Recd. 23^d — — — — — End.

G. O., 19th November 1868, No. 522.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 57-58.

Communicating letter from the Government
of India, intimating that the grant of a pension of
Rupees 30 per mensem to Mrs French, and of
Rupees 15 per mensem to each of her daughters,
has been recommended to the Secretary of State.

Order received 30 November 1868
Recorded