M.R.O. 1—29,600—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	626	**Press** ~~**Mis.**~~
Dated	11— 8—	~~**19**~~ 1887

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 40. From Surgeon E. G. BALFOUR, Government Agent at Chepauk; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 31st July 1857, No. 199 of P. C. S.

SIR,

Para: 3 of Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 553 of the 16th Instant, with reference to the remarks there recorded by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, directed me to address myself to the consideration of the case of Carnatic Stipendiary, No. 254, Moobaruck Oon Nissa Begum; and the Right Honorable the Governor in Council anticipated that I will have no difficulty in submitting it to Government with my recommendation.

2. I have the honor to express to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, the regret I feel at being unable to meet the wishes of Government by submitting this case with my recommendation; and to add that, from the time it was first presented to me, I believe that I perfectly comprehended the case in all its bearings; and I have now the honor to report to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council regarding it.

3. Moobaruck Oon Nissa Begum is now in the receipt of Rupees 165-10-0 per mensem, Rupees 1,987-8-0 per annum.

4. She is not a descendent of the Nabob Wallajah's family: but, as she was married to a Son of that Nabob, Government, in Extract Minutes of Consultation, 9th January 1824, granted her deceased Husband's family a Stipend of Rupees 416-10 per mensem or Rupees 4,999-8 per annum; of which her own share was Rupees 247-10 per mensem.

5. By referring to the correspondence as per margin,* it will be seen that, twelve years ago she was detected in gross fraud: and that, though the Nabob was of opinion she might have committed it "from the defect of intellect, "to which she is subject," the Honorable Court did not so consider it, and her Stipend of Rupees 247-10 per mensem, was permanently reduced by ⅓rd, *viz.*, to that of the Rupees 165-10 per mensem, which she still is drawing. Her age was then (vide Government Agent's letter, 15th October, No. 96 of 1855) stated to be 50 years; she is now therefore by that Statement, 62 years of age; but, by a Statement of her own in the Records, dated 9th April 1856, she is now 65 years and 3 months.†

*1845, *4th July G. A. No.* 54.
1845, *27th August G. A. No.* 77.
1847, *P.* 19 *of Honorable Court's Letter, No.* 3. *14th April* 1847.
1848, *Extract Minutes of Consultation, Para:* 2. *2nd December, No.* 570 *of* 1848.

†*Her advanced age may be judged of, when I mention that she was married on the 29th June* 1807.

6. I would, add that the Abbass Ally, referred to in para: 2 of the Minutes under reply, is well known to me.

7. I have seen him almost daily, and often many times daily, during the whole of my residency in Madras. He is unable to prove himself to be a blood relative of this woman, but he is a Nickah Son of a man who had three Wives, one of whom was the Sister of this Stipendiary and whose large frauds I brought to light in the correspondence as per margin.‡

‡*Letter from the Government Agent, dated* 19*th January* 1852, *No.* 14
Do. from do. 28*th Januar y* 1852, *No.* 69.
Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 17*th Februar y* 1852, *No.* 69.

8. Abbass Ally, is a Livery Stable-keeper and dealer in a small way; of weak intellect: of which I could give an instance: is at best but a petty pedlar, whose profits amount to from Rupees 25 to 30 per mensem: and his interest in the Begum's obtaining this Bonus, for it is him that is pressing this claim, cannot be better shown than in the words by which he concluded his Statement, *viz.*, "I only request that the Government Agent will favorably report to Government in MY behalf: thus letting out that Moobaruck Oon Nissa Begum and her interests are matters of no consideration to him.

9. In addition to these frauds, and defects of intellect, and the advanced age and all its infirmities of 65 years and 3 months, the woman is Gosha;—has never been engaged in any business; has always been in debt; has even been obliged lately to mortgage her Seal, and she then

avoided her engagements with her creditors by getting a new one;—she has no Children, and her large Stipend of Rupees 2,000, per annum (Rupees 1,987-8-0) is amply sufficient to supply every want. Her Stipend was given to her that she might live respectably as Widow of a Son of Walajah; not to support in idleness a large circle of relatives and dependents of her side of the house, and the claim which she advances in para: 2 of the Minute is the strongest political reason against her request being complied with.

10. Moreover, she is now upwards of 65 years of age. If her Stipend were commuted, she would get only Rupees 11,935. If it were possible to employ the whole of this in trade, at a profit of 12 per cent; and she, by managing the business exclusively herself, were to get it all to herself, the whole profits would be about Rupees 1,400 per annum or about Rupees 116 per mensem or Rupees 600 less than her present Stipend of Rupees 2,000 per annum or Rupees 165 per mensem.

11. I believe that I have written enough to show that I had, from the first, very ample reasons for declining to recommend this case to Government for a Bonus: that the Right Honorable the Governor in Council will approve of my not doing so now, being convinced that none of us would recommend our own female relatives, even of sound health, and intellect, to forego, at the advanced age of 65 years and 3 months, a sure and very ample annuity, to launch the same on the tide of trade with all its fluctuations and its uncertain bringings, and possible poverty and ruin. But, in addition to this, I can say that Abbass Ally has not the intellect, to employ so large a sum of money as an additional Rupees 12,000, if thrown into his trade; and that, even if he had the intellect, there is not an opening for him to employing so much.

12. While, I hope, disposing, thus, of this case, to the entire approbation of Government. I would submit to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, that the proposals to grant a Bonus in lieu of a Stipend, as will be found detailed in my communication of the 26th March last, first emanated from me: that I have never ceased to entertain the desire mutually to benefit the State and advance the interests of these people, by recommending such requests for Bonus as seemed to me likely equally to benefit the people who applied for them and the State: I quite recognise the wish of the Honorable Court to advance the social position of these people, but there are social and political considerations which paras: 24 and 25 of Political Letter, No. 2, dated 28th January 1857, I feel assured it would be the wish of the Honorable Court that I should attend to and be guided by. The case under reply is a mixture of both; she is a Stipendiary from political reasons and should expend her Stipend according: and social and political reasons forbid that any Gosha Woman of 65 years of age unaccustomed to business should be allowed to risk the loss of a large annuity, for the benefit of people for whom the Stipend or any of its benefits were never intended.

13. The political reasons at present are so obvious, that I only allude to them to mention, that I refused lately many applications on this ground alone: and to express my regret that we have been unfortunate in allowing disposal of Stipends so as to lose the control over some people, that it would be well to have had subject to us at present. If I do not detail all my reasons at all times, either on Petitions in endorsements, or in my letters to Government, my reasons, are not from any inability to do so, to Petitioners; or that I hesitate to explain to Government all the motives which guide me, but prudential motives call for reserved replies to the applicants, I am desirous not to occupy the time of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, with more writing than may suffice.

I would only add that the Stipendiaries, in all former applications, habitually exaggerated their ages: But in now applying for Stipends they as carefully decrease their ages: and the nearly "Sixty years of age" of Moobaruck Oon Nissa Begum, endorsed by me on her Petition, was the Statement of Abbass Ally, while the records show her age to be upwards of 65 years.

(Signed) EDWARD BALFOUR,
Government Agent.

No. 41.

ORDER THEREON, No. 626; dated 11th August 1857.

Moobaruck Oon Nissa Begum, a certain Carnatic Stipendiary, lately requested the Agent to recommend to Government the purchase of her Stipend, agreeably to the scale of commutation allowed by the Honorable Court in such cases. The Agent declined to do so, and, as the grounds

of his refusal, endorsed on her Petition that she was advanced in life and a *Gosha* or *Pardanashin*.

E. M. C. No. 553, dated 16th July 1857.

2. Petitioner then appealed to the Government, who, not recognising the objections raised as invalidating the claim by themselves, remitted the case to the Agent for further consideration and detailed report.

3. From his present letter it appears that he has many other reasons for refusing compliance with her Prayer. Ten years ago she was detected in a gross fraud, and only escaped the entire forfeiture of her Stipend from the existence of some doubts as to her perfect sanity of intellect. The people about her, moreover, are of disreputable character and would probably squander the commutation amount, leaving her in a state of beggary. There are also some political grounds of present weight.

4. Under this explanation, the Government resolve to reject Petitioner's Appeal.

5. It will save some correspondence and trouble in future applications of this nature by the Agent's endorsement, in a case where his opinion is unfavorable, containing his reasons in full, or where that would be obviously inexpedient, a simple refusal only. In the present instance, by the adoption of an intermediate course, the Government were led to question a decision in the propriety of which further information has brought them to acquiesce, and the Agent compelled to make a communication far more lengthy than would otherwise have been necessary.

Ordered that the following endorsement be passed on Petitioner's Memorial. "The Govern-
"ment having received a full report from the Agent, see no grounds to interfere with his decision."

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

No 626 Pol.l Dept.

Z. In. C. D/ 11th August 1837

Read the following letter from the Agent at Chapank } Item entered No 199. D/ 31st July/37.

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D.T.C. 4/8/57.

Ordered that the following endorsement be passed on Petn's Memorial. "The Govt." "Do not see a fully report from the" "Agent, see no grounds to interfere with his decision"

To the Civil Agent at Chilcat. Despd 11th
Endorsement to the Petition Despd 11th

Vol. Lt. Inf. 12th Bn.
No. 13 of 1858 Jan. 1920
Resigned 27th October
1858

Encl. No. 11 August
Political Dept.
1857

No. 626

Abstract Mins. of Coms.

24/11 August 1857

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