M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 27 Press ~~Misc~~

Dated 11-1-1839

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 32. From Surgeon E. G. BALFOUR, Government Agent at Chepauk; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 23rd December 1858, No. 2073 of P. C. S.

SIR,

The Agency is at present not able to overtake, but if there were the greatest leisure, I would recommend the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to stay his hand from granting or even investigating or even causing the Agency to investigate the multitudinous claims for commutation of Pensions which the Carnatic Stipendiaries are making.

2. In my communication, No. 416, dated 9th February last, I had the honor of then submitting a similar suggestion, founded on Political reasons, which the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, in Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 120, dated 18th February 1858, para: 2, considered sufficient to defer for a time all such concessions.

3. When matters seemed settling down, I commenced gradually to feel my way by giving notice that I would consider applications from Stipendiaries in receipt of Pension up to 12 Rupees a year, and I think that course was prudent and was, while doing good in various ways, all that my reason justified.

4. Without noticing the former orders of 28th January, No. 75 of 1858, para: 2; also 18th February, No. 120 of 1858, para: 2, Government, in Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 524, dated 17th August 1858, saw no reason for restricting commutations to the one Rupee, which I had thought, as a commencement, the utmost prudent limit, and desired me to withdraw the Notice which I had put up to that effect.

5. In consequence thereof, since receipt of that order and removal of the limit, the applications for Bonus in lieu of Stipends has been in the four months, as follows:

1858.

August 17th to 31st	All September	All October	All November	December 1st to 14th.	Total of applications in 4 months.
22	39	58	91	58	268

6. What the cause of these multitudinous applications is, I am at present not able to say. It is possible that there may be several causes, but I feel convinced that the greater number of the applicants are influenced by Political reasons, and from an observation which fell from a well to do man, many possibly have doubts as to the permanency of their Stipends.

7. I believe, I am correct in stating that the idea of permitting Pensioners of Government to commute their Stipends for a Bonus, originated with me. And the second applicant whose stipend was commuted was Shahjee Begum, the wife of the Assistant Government Agent; and though subsequently the scale of the Punjaub was adopted in preference to the estimate framed by me as to the duration of the lives of the men and women of this Country, the Punjaub scale restricts commutation of Stipends to such as do not exceed Rupees twelve per Annum; while, where recommended by the Agency, there is no limit to the Carnatic Stipend allowed to be commuted and the considerable sum of Rupees 17,000 in two instances have been issued. The idea of this plan occurred to me from foreseeing advantages to the Government in getting rid of certain payments for ever, and enabling people who could exert themselves to improve their circumstances, to have the means of doing so, and I never lost sight of the mutual advantages, but have recommended every case which I conscientiously could. In former time, even with all our care, I refer to my letter, No. dated to show that only about a half had made good use of their Bonus, and this alone has instilled great caution in making the inquiries and in recommending for Bonus, independent altogether of the Political reasons with which the subject is connected. It is with much regret I mention the want of truthfulness and candour as to the reasons for applying, which the great bulk of the applicants evince, and on a recent occasion the false Statements which one after another successively, each of those applying made in support of their claims, was so gross that Chief Officer, Carnatic Stipendiary, No. 1327, Dubeer Ood Dowlah

Bahadoor, who was sitting by me all the time, in agitation declared that if the next case was supported by equally false allegations he would not have patience to remain.

8. I beg the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to come to a decision upon this point solely on its Political merits. It is true that at the present moment, as for the last two years, the Agency has been working long beyond ordinary Office hours: but, this magnitude of work must surely soon diminish, and though each case take a considerable time for its decision, we will soon, I hope, be able to overtake the whole applications. But, in the meantime, I pray the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to believe that the utmost desire consistent with the interests of Government and the applicants exists in the Agency to recommend commutations, but I believe that, under existing circumstances and until we see our way clearly, it is for the true interests of the State and of these people that the Agency should only carefully recommend and Government sparingly sanction applications. Under no circumstances certainly at present do I recommend Government to grant commutation of any large Stipend or of the Stipend of any member of the Carnatic family, or their particular followers, however, small the Stipend may be, and I particularly suggest that holy men be retained as Stipendiaries of Government. This is a question which it seems to me should be decided on general principles, and for this reason I do not encumber this report by discussions as to individual claims, and after this letter shall be fully considered by Government, for it is one in my opinion deserving full consideration, and Government shall have laid down the principles by which the Agency is to be guided, or having confidence in, shall leave, it to the discretion of the Office to recommend or not, all claims in hand can then be proceeded with.

No. 33. ORDER THEREON, No. 27; dated 11th January 1859.

The Government see no occasion for issuing any further orders than have already been passed in respect to the commutation of Carnatic Pensions, nor are they prepared to exclude from the benefit of the commutation Members of the Carnatic Family, their particular followers or the other parties suggested by Dr. Balfour.

2. It is not desirable that the Agent should proceed with these enquiries to the prejudice of more serious business. He will report upon the applications made to him gradually, *in the order in which they have been presented to him*, and as he finds leisure. The Government, on review of the circumstances of each case, will decide whether the request shall be acceded to or not.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

2)

Political Depart.

No. 27

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation.

Under date 11 January 1859.

Read the following letter from the Govt. Agent at Chepauk.

Dated 28th December 1858, No.

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no occasion for issuing a
further orders than have
already been passed in respe
to the commutation of Car
-natic Pensions, nor are they
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-tion members of the Carnatic
Family, their particular
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to the prejudice of more
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report

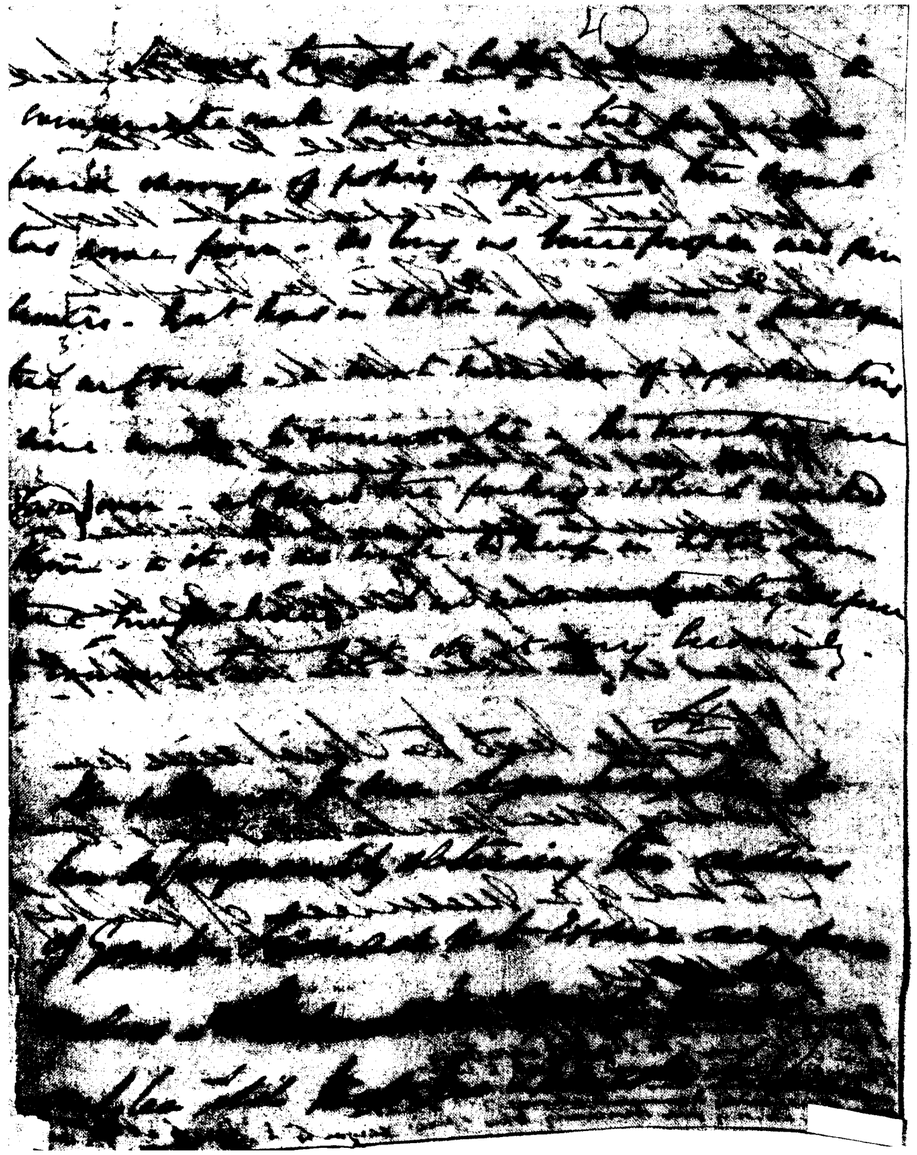
report upon the applications made to him gradually - in the order in which they have been presented to him, and as he finds leisure - The Government, on review of the circumstances of each case, will decide whether the request shall be acceded to or not.

To the Govr & Agent at Chickasaw District

The Appellant counsel urged that he has not been given an opportunity to respond on this application - on the contrary he says that he hopes soon to conclude the whole of this case.

It is not necessary that he should put in any more written submissions - I will hear him again upon this application - He can then sum up from the Bench as appropriate and when he does so he can deal with each of the points that have been raised during the course of the Appellant's submissions.

27 - 12 - 50



St. Pers. U. Dairs.
Philos. 1859. Depart.
No 27
Exhaebe Wirtschaftsrat.
25th January 1859.