

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 170

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated 28-3-1861

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
28th March 1861.

No. 67. Read the following letter from Surgeon Major EDWARD G. BALFOUR, Government Agent at Chepauk and Paymaster of Carnatic Stipends, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 19th March 1861, No. 346.

I have the honor to report further on the case of Ayesha as commanded in Order* No. 147 of 14th instant.

2. Under the Orders of the Government of India granting certain rates of gratuities to Carnatic Servants, whose services were less than 25 years, a gratuity of Rupees 42 was allotted to Siddi Noor Mahomed. He died on the 4th March 1859: and after his demise, issue of the gratuity was made on 22nd October 1859, to an alleged widow Kadir Bi through a Vakil named Syed Umar.

† Four persons having given evidence as to the fact of Ayesha Bee Hamamnee being acquainted with the late Noor Mahomed, it is naturally to be inferred that she must have known whether he was married to Chand Bee or not.

ORDER.

Ayesha Bee Hamamnee will be suspended until the decision of the Magistrate is known regarding the case of fraud in which Syed Omer Vakil is concerned.

Chepauk, (Signed) P. T. SNOW,
4th January 1860. Assist. Govt. Agent.

3. It was however shortly thereafter reported that the deceased had not left any widow, and Major Snow recorded a Memorandum as per margin† on the share that this Petitioner Ayesha had in the fraud.

4. Immediately after my resuming charge of the Agency, in March last year, this subject came before me in Petitions and personal representations from Ayesha and from a person named Kadir Hoossain, the latter claiming to be the heir of the deceased Siddi Noor Mahomed.

5. At the same time, however, the case of the false personation of the alleged widow was taken before Her Majesty's Supreme Court where a conviction was obtained, and under the Order as per margin,‡ the Stipends were lapsed of two pensioners who had aided in the fraud.

6. After the trial and conviction, as Kadir Hoossain re-appeared at the Agency demanding re-issue of the gratuity to himself, I addressed a note on the subject to Major Snow, who had been in attendance in the Courts, in whose reply, (copies subjoined) are the following words:—

“The plot was got up between the Vakeel and the Hamamnee who escaped, and the others who received 2 Rupees each for affixing their seals, got 18 months' hard labor.”

7. During my investigation of the claim put forward by Kadir Hoossain, as Ayesha was also petitioning to be restored and as she was mixed up with the fraud, an investigation of her character and conduct likewise was necessary, and the result thereof was the order for her dismissal from the date on which Major Snow has commanded her suspension. The information as to her character and habits then obtained was such as to leave no doubt as to the propriety of dispensing with her services; but also to cause regret that she had ever been entertained, or, that she was not dismissed when she was first unfavourably mentioned.

8. It will be observed from this history that the case of Ayesha is not that of a stipendiary; that she was not deprived by Major Snow or myself of any pension which she had earned for Sirkar Services; but that she was a servant in the Agency on the very high salary, for an uneducated woman, of Rupees 10 per mensem, and was first suspended by Major Snow, and afterwards, by myself, dismissed from her situation for misconduct, not of a trivial character but for aiding in the commission of a fraud of a character the prevention of which was the very principle of her Office as a Hamamnee.

9. On the other subject on which report is also commanded, viz., “her length of service and whether she has a separate stipend or is otherwise provided for,” I have the honor to submit that Petitioner was entertained in the Nabob's service on the 1st February 1854, viz., twenty months before the Nabob died. Reckoning, like that of other servants, her service up to 4th October 1856, she had a personal service of 2 years and 8 months. Her father Shaik

that she be informed

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Hameed was also in Sirkar employ, having been entertained on the 1st of February 1824, and died on the 4th of August 1848. Reckoning her father's and her own services of 24 years and 6 months + 2 years and 8 months, the total joint services of father and daughter was 27 years and 2 months which, under the usual rules, would suffice to entitle her to a 3rd rate of pension.

10. Her husband, Sheik Dawud, had also been a Sirkar servant from 31st May 1845 to 28th November 1852; and after his demise her infant son *On condition of keeping a substitute. Jafar Hoossain was entertained by the Nabob as a peon * on Rupees 5 per mensem—and is now, as a youth, in receipt of the same amount of Rupees 5, as a Pensioner, until his entry on his eighteenth year.

11. I have the honor to submit, as my opinion, that her misconduct in the Agency, while in a highly paid situation of trust and responsibility justified her suspension by Major Snow, and her ultimate dismissal by myself, from the date of that suspension: that by such dismissal from the employ of Government she forfeited any claim to reckon hereditary services in the Nabob's times: and that she gets all that she merits in the issue to her son till 18th year, of the pension of Rupees 5 per mensem, which he now draws.

MY DEAR SNOW,

21st April 1860.

Kader Hoossain, a stout dark Mahomedan, called at the office and asked me to pay him the monies for which the Court had sentenced the people, adding that you had kept monies for him. Did you keep any money, or did you discover who the proper person was? Was this dark man Kader Hoossain the proper person?

Yours, &c.,
(Signed) E. G. BALFOUR.

MY DEAR BALFOUR,

I have to apologize for not having replied to your note sooner; but it came as I was going out and I forgot it, until the bearer shewed himself this morning. I came to no decision regarding his claim to the gratuity of Noor Mahomed, but imagine, his wife is the person entitled. The money he alluded to as being in deposit must be the pension of the 2 men now incarcerated. The plot was got up between the Vakeel and Hamamnee who escaped and the others who received 2 Rupees each for affixing their seals, got 18 months' hard labor.

Yours, &c.,
(Signed) P. T. SNOW.

I send a letter left at my house.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) E. G. BALFOUR,
Government Agent.

No. 68.

ORDER THEREON, 28th March 1861, No. 170.

The Government are satisfied with this explanation. They think, with the Chepauk Agent, that there can be no doubt whatever that Petitioner was cognizant of, if not a direct accomplice in, the fraud connected with the issue of Siddi Nur Muhammad's gratuity. They approve her having been dismissed the service as unworthy of trust, and desire that she be informed that she has by her misconduct forfeited all claim to pension.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Political Dept. 2
in the Chepauk Agent
19th March 1861

Order thereon 28th March 1861, No. 170.

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JP

L. F.

To the Govt Agent at Chepauk. Dec 28-3-61.

Pol. 1861. Depart

No 170

Proceeding of foot

Dec 28 " March 1861.

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