M.R.O. 1—22 600—22-11-45

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 144 Press Mis.

Dated 11-4-48 18 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 15. Read the following letter from H. D. PHILLIPS, Esq., late Government Commissioner at Tanjore; to THOMAS PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated 25th March 1862.

1. I have the honor to reply to the Order of Government dated the 16th January last, No. 17, directing me to furnish certain information required by the Secretary of State on the case of Kistna Bayee Sahiba, a Memorialist, for an increase of the stipend assigned to her.

2. Kistna Bayee is one of the concubines of the late Raja, and, so far as my knowledge of Tanjore affairs enables me to state, is not entitled to the position she claims, of sword wife of the deceased Prince. In assuming this position she draws a groundless parallel between herself and her allowances, and those assigned to Ladhoo Bayee, the well known sword wife of the late Raja's father, Raja Serfoji. It may be true that she was treated by the late Raja with more consideration than some or all of the numerous other concubines of the Seraglio; but that such favor ever led to the assignment to her of any substantial difference of allowances or any positive benefit not enjoyed or participated in by the other females of that establishment, I was not able to discover.

3. I have failed in tracing the higher scale of pension to which, in the communication from the Secretary of State, it is observed the Memorialist has been thought entitled. She is entered as No. 26 on the list of the immediate members of the family of Sivajee, late Raja, and the lump stipend assigned to the ladies from that No. to No. 65, as shown in column 12 of that Statement, is Rupees 1,800 each annually, or monthly Rupees 150.

Paragraph 6.

4. In the appendix which accompanied the statement in question, I have represented in the second section of the remarks on Nos. 26 to 84 that "the system followed in dispensing the "allowances of the Seraglio, prevents a knowledge being acquired of the specific sum enjoyed "by any one or two, or each of its inmates. The aggregate sum shown "in the list is the value of the ready money and other payments made "in the course of a year, and if that amount be divided by the num-"ber* of adults, who inhabit the "Mungalavas," it will be seen that "each of the 42 ladies has received Rupees 180 a month."

Rupees 95,440.

* 42.

5. The list thus referred to had been prepared under the superintendence of the Commissioner, Mr. H. Forbes, before I entered on the duty of Commissioner in January 1857, and although at different times during my employment in Tanjore up to August 1860, the Memorialist has asserted her right to receive more stipend than the other females in the Seraglio and generally to be treated with more distinction, I have not had it in my power to learn that her requisition received support from any data that were officially tangible.

6. The Raja's son-in-law Saccaram Sahib led me to understand that his father-in-law acknowledged the Memorialist as deserving of more attention than was ordinarily bestowed on the other inmates of the Seraglio, but beyond his statement and that, to a similar effect of, as I recollect, two servants of the Raja in whom much trust was reposed, I had no means of forming an opinion; and it was clear to me that the other females of the establishment did not recognize Kistna Bayee as the leading lady of the Seraglio, whatever may have been the position she herself and her friends may have desired she should take on the strength of the late Raja's affection for her.

7. The list or account prepared in Mr. Forbes' time was based on an examination and analysis of the detailed accounts kept in the Palace of the supplies of kinds made to the Seraglio and of the ready money assigned to it. But my later experience of Tanjore affairs has enabled me to understand that the internal distribution of these allowances depended very much on verbal or other orders which the Raja might have given or was declared to have issued.

8. Be that as it may, when the detailed accounts of the Seraglio were subjected to examination, the servants at Tanjore were in complete ignorance of the object for which they were scrutinized. They concluded the Raj would be restored in the person of the daughter of the

deceased Prince and must, I believe, have supposed that the Government were desirous of introducing system and regularity where only confusion had previously prevailed; and I have always believed that the results then exhibited were trustworthy and correct. No such result would in my opinion be obtained at present, if a further examination be now ordered; for the servants of the Palace have learnt that fixed stipends founded on a division of former receipts was the plan to be adopted, and as nothing is easier than the introduction of new strips of paper into Mahratta accounts, kept as the Tanjore accounts have been according to the Mahratta system, I doubt whether what might come out on any new examination of the Palace Dufters would be trustworthy.

9. I am nevertheless bound to acknowledge the impression I have derived, that the Memorialist was a favored one of the many females in the Seraglio and doubtless did occasionally, if not regularly, receive more substantial consideration than the other inmates of that department of the Palace, but what was its extent, how it was conferred, and through or by whom, I had no opportunity of learning.

No. 16. ORDER THEREON, 11th April 1862, No. 144.

Ordered that a copy of the foregoing report be transmitted to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, with reference to paragraphs 6 @ 8 of his Despatch, dated the 23rd November, No. 19 of 1861.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Collector
Surat

Order thereon 11th April 1862 North

Ordered that a copy
of the foregoing report be transmitted to the R. H. the Secretary
of State for India, with reference to
paras 6 & 8 of his Despatch dated
the 23d November last No 19 of 1861.

WM

WM

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Pol 16 June 5/62 - 1: 25726

Pol Dept Pkg 12 April No 7
of 1862.

Replied to 30 June
No 12 of 62

Poll 1862 Dept

(1)

From A. D Phillips Esq
Late Commissioner Surat

To T. Pycroft Esq
Chief Secretary to Govt

Dated 25 March 1862,
Rec'd 26th "

Enclosures — none

No 134

Submits in respect of
Kishna Boyee, a memo-
rialist, information
required in a communica-
tion from the Secretary of State,

15 & 15

C 5 April
R 15 "

With an Order