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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Ruelie DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	213	Press
		~~Mis.~~
Dated	19-2-1870	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

19th February 1870.

No. 94. Read the following letter from the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Colombo, 25th January 1870, No. 3.

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a Report from the Trustees of the Pension Fund of the Pioneers, attached to the Public Works Department of this Government, on the state of the Fund.

2. This report shows that the expenditure of the Fund is largely in excess of its income, and that, unless steps are at once taken to check this excess of expenditure, the Fund will rapidly be exhausted, and the payment of the existing pensions and the grant of any new ones will have to cease. To prevent these evils the Trustees have proposed to reduce the existing pensions by one-third, and to impose restrictions on the grant of future pensions; by which means it is believed that the Fund will be rendered solvent.

3. The Governor of Ceylon has approved of the recommendation of the Trustees, and I am to request that you will, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor of Madras in Council, be good enough to give effect to the measures proposed by the Trustees in their report for carrying out the reductions into effect.

4. In acquainting the pensioners with the reduction of their allowances the Governor is anxious that, as suggested by the Trustees of the Fund, the causes of it should be distinctly explained to them, in order that they may be made to understand that there has been nothing of the nature of a breach of faith with them, and that the measure is adopted in their own interest. The pensions are not paid by Government, but are derived from a Fund created by the subscriptions of the men themselves, and the pensioners are only entitled to such pensions as the Fund is able from time to time to afford. The pensions have hitherto been granted at a rate higher than the Fund will bear, and if they were continued at that rate it would be exhausted, and the pensions would cease altogether. This reduction, therefore, is made in the interest of the pensioners themselves as well as in justice to future claimants on the Fund.

5. It is to be regretted that it should have become necessary to take a step which will naturally create a good deal of disappointment, and which may have a prejudicial effect on future attempts to recruit the force in India. The Governor is anxious at all events that the nature of the transaction should be clearly explained to the men so as to prevent any impression on their part that they have been unfairly treated, or that faith has not been kept with them by the Colonial Government.

From the Trustees of the Pioneer Pension Fund, to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, dated Colombo, 31st December 1869.

In connexion with the recommendations made by us with reference to the Pioneer Pension Fund in our letter of 30th ultimo, and the approval of them by the Governor and Executive Council conveyed in your letter of the 14th instant, we have now the honour to submit, for consideration, certain points which we think it desirable should be touched upon in announcing to the Government of Madras the necessity which has arisen of reducing the pensions drawn by Pioneers in that Presidency, and the measures to be adopted to carry the reductions into effect.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

19th February 1870.

2. We think it desirable that it should be clearly explained to the men that the pensions are not paid by Government, but from funds contributed by the men composing the Pioneer Force, and that they can only receive pensions of such an amount as the state of the Fund may from time to time admit.

3. That the number of pensioners has increased so rapidly during the last few years that it is found impossible to meet the claims on the Fund without trenching on its capital, and that if the pensions were continued at the present rate, the Fund would soon be exhausted, and the pensions would then cease altogether.

That, in the interests therefore of the pensioners themselves, and in justice to the men now serving in the force, it is absolutely necessary to reduce the rates of pension by one-third. By this reduction, and by imposing certain restrictions on the grant of pensions for the future, it is believed that the expenditure of the Fund will be brought within its income, and that no further reductions of the pensions hitherto granted will be necessary.

4. A list of pensioners drawing pensions in the Madras Presidency is enclosed, and the stations of the men (as correctly as can be ascertained here) inserted, with the amounts of pension drawn at present, and those to which the pensions are to be reduced; such reduction to take place as soon as possible after the receipt of the intimation by the officer paying such pensions.

5. The Trustees request that all certificates of pension may be recovered from the pensioners and transmitted to Ceylon, with a view of having them cancelled and fresh certificates issued. Temporary receipts might be given to the pensioners in the meantime.

6. In recovering these receipts, it would be a good opportunity to test, as far as possible, the right of the man holding it to receive the pension, as it is quite possible a dead pensioner may be personated by another man.

7. It would be very desirable if, in returning these certificates, the officers of the Indian Government would have attached to each a concise description of the pensioner to insert in the new certificate to remove difficulty as to identity for the future.

8. In conclusion, the Trustees have reason to believe that many men quite fit for further service have been pensioned, and if any such, instead of receiving the reduced pension desire to serve on returning to Ceylon they will be re-instated in their divisions in the same rank and rate of pay as when they took their pension.

No. 95. ORDER THEREON, 19th February 1870, No. 213.

Resolved that a copy of the foregoing letter be furnished to the Accountant-General, and that he be requested to give effect to the instructions contained in paragraph 2.

2. He will also be requested to have the reasons assigned by the Ceylon Government for the reduction of the stipends clearly explained to the several stipendiaries by the officers through whom they are paid. The attention of these officers should also be directed to paragraphs 5, 6, 7, and 8 of the antecedent of the Colonial Secretary's letter.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Accountant-General, with the List.

Exd. J. Wright.

Subt. of 1870; ~~W~~adras.

PUBLIC.

THE ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL

ed February, 19th.

ed.

luc.

G. O. 19th February 1870, No. 213.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 94-96.

Communicating letter from Ceylon Govern-
ment regarding the state of the Ceylon Pioneers'
Pension Fund, and requesting that the cause of
the reduction in the pensioners' stipends may be
properly explained to them.

No 3.

Colonial Secretary's office

Colombo, 25 Jan'y. 1870.

Sir, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a Report from the Inspector of the Pension Fund on the progress attached to the Public Works Department of this Government on the state of the Fund.

This report shows that the expenditure of the fund is largely in excess of its income and that unless steps are at once taken to check this excess of expenditure the fund will rapidly be exhausted and the payment of the existing pensions and the grant of any new ones will have to cease. To

The Chief Secretary
to Government

present

Fort St. George.

prevent these evils the Trustees have proposed to reduce the existing pensions by one-third and to impose restrictions on the grant of future pensions. By which means it is believed that the fund will be rendered solvent.

The Governor of Caylon has approved of the recommendation of the Trustees and I am to request that you will, with the permission of the Privy Council, be good enough to give effect to the measures proposed by the Trustees in their report for carrying out the reductions into effect.

In acquainting the Pensioners with the reduction of their allowances the Governor is anxious that as suggested by the Trustees of the Fund, the causes of it should be distinctly explained to them in order that they may be made to understand that there has been nothing of

2
the nature of a breach of faith with them and that the measure is adopted in their own interest. The pensions are not paid by Government but are derived from a fund created by the subscription of the men themselves, and the pensioners are only entitled to such pensions as the fund is able from time to time to afford. The pensions have hitherto been granted at a rate higher than the fund will bear and if they were continued at that rate it would be exhausted and the pensions would cease altogether. This reduction is therefore made in the interest of the pensioners themselves as well as in justice to future claimants on the fund.

It is to be regretted that it should have become necessary to take a step which will naturally create a good deal of disappointment

and

and which may have a pre-
judicial effect on future attempts
to recruit the force in India. -
The Governor is anxious at all
events that the nature of the
transaction should be clearly ex-
plained to the men so as to
prevent any impression on their
part that they have been unfairly
treated or that faith has not been
kept with them by the Colonial
Government.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedt. servant

Wm. P. Goring
Colonial Secretary

Copy

Report referred to

90

Colombo, 31. Dec. 1859.

The Trustees of the Pioneer Pension Fund
To The Honble The Colonial Secretary

Sir, In connection with the re-
commendations made by us with
reference to the Pioneer Pension Fund
in our letter of 30th ultimo and the
approval of them by the Governor and
Executive Council conveyed in your
letter of the 14th instant, we have
the honor to submit for consideration
certain points which we think it
desirable should be touched upon
in announcing to the Government
of Madras the necessity which has
arisen of reducing the pensions drawn
by Pioneers in that Presidency and
the measures to be adopted to carry the
reductions into effect.

Wm

2 We think it desirable that it should be clearly explained to the men that the Pensions are not paid by Government but from funds contributed by the men comprising the Pioneer Force and that they can only receive pensions of such an amount as the state of the Fund may from time to time admit.

3 That the number of Pensioners has increased so rapidly during the last few years that it is found impossible to meet the claims on the fund without touching on its capital, and that if the pensions were continued at the present rate, the fund would soon be exhausted and the pensions would then cease altogether.

That in the interests therefore of the Pensioners themselves and in justice to the men now serving in the force it is absolutely necessary to reduce the rates of pension by one-third. By this reduction and by

4 imposing certain restrictions on the grant of pensions for the future it is believed that the expenditure of the fund will be brought within its income and that no further reductions of the pensions hitherto granted will be necessary.

4 A List of Pensioners drawing Pensions in the Madras District is enclosed and the names of the men (as correctly as can be ascertained here) inserted, with the amounts of pension drawn at present and those to which the pensions are to be reduced, and reduction to take place as soon as possible after the receipt of the intimation by the officer paying such pensions.

5 The Trustees request that all certificates of Pension may be recovered from the Pensioners and

transmitted

transmitted to Ceylon with a view
of having them cancelled and
fresh certificates issued. Temporary
receipts might be given to the
Prisoners in the mean time.

¶ In recovering these receipts
it would be a good opportunity
to test as far as possible the right
of the man holding it to receive
the pension as it is quite possible
a dead pensioner may be prison-
ered by another man.

△ It would be very desirable
if in returning these certificates the
officers of the Indian Government
would have attached to each a
concise description of the pensioner
to insert in the new certificate
to remove difficulty as to identity
for the future.

¶ In conclusion the
Inches have reason to believe
that many men quite fit for

5
further service have been pensioned
and if any such, instead of receiving
the reduced pension ^{13s} due to ~~some~~
on returning to Ceylon they will
be reinstated in their ~~Divisions~~
the same rank and rate of pay
as when they took their pension.

We have &c.

Signed Henry J. Irving

J. B. Stephen

Acty. Asst. Comd.

Guilford L. Moleworth

Dir. Prt. Works.

Public Works Dept
Pro-19 "Feb 4/90
Colonial Secretary
Colombo 3.

1/23 Jan
1900

No 146
1st

Forward report on the
State of the Ceylon Provinces
Pension Fund, showing the
Steps to be taken to render it
sustainable, & request that the
Cause of the Pensioners' Distress
be being addressed by
Mr. this may be further
explained to them

Public Department

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the
Colonial Secretary Colombo,
dated 25 Jan^y 1890 No 3.

Order thereon 14 February 1890 No 213

Resolved that
a copy of the foregoing
letter be furnished to the
Accountant General and
that he be requested to
give effect to the instructions
contained in paragraph
2. He will also
be requested to have the
reasons assigned by the
Ceylon Government for
the reduction of the
stipends, clearly explained
to the several Stipendiaries
by

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MA

by the Officers through
whom they are paid

should be added

The attention of these Officers
should also be directed to
pages 5, 6, 7, & 8 of the
enclosure of the Colonial
Secretary's letter. Will

To

The Accountant General
with the Cash }

Sept 24/21

Book of 1187 a 200 pages.

White

W. H. Reed & Son

dated 1877, No. 213

Nos. 24 29 5-

Running to the Sun, Ceylon,
and regarding the state
of the Colonization
Bureau, and the agents
that the cause of the
reduction in the per-
centage of the number of
the first year of the
Bureau.