

Public (1896) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 1117.

DATED 10-10-96.

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Informing Miss Pogson, Meteorological Reporter to the Govt of Madras, that the Govt regrets its inability to consider the question of compensating her for any pecuniary loss she may have sustained owing to circumstances for which the Govt was in no way responsible; and requesting her to furnish a medical certificate of the necessity for her taking long leave shortly -

John Eliot M.A. F.R.S.

vide page 401 India Office list

William Discombe Dallas

vide page 392

Charles Little M.A.

vide page 52

Educational Officer 4th class
2nd Scientific Asst to the Meteorological Reporter to the Govt of India
& Professor, Presidency College, Calcutta.

Alexander Peddie F.R.S.

vide page 476 India Office list

Meteorological Reporter to the Govt of Bengal in addition to his duties as Professor Presidency College Calcutta

John Murray

vide page 63 India Office list

Professor of Physical Science, Aligarh Central College & Meteorological Reporter, A.W. P. Board.

Sydney Hutton Cooper Hutchinson

vide page 30 India Office list

5th class (2nd grade) Superdt, Indian Telegraph Dept & Meteorological Reporter for Western India (major)

William Charles Nigel Jones

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5th class (1st grade) Superdt, Indian Telegraph Dept & Meteorological Reporter for Western India

Public (1896) Department.

From

CURRENT No.

Order

From

Miss E. Isis Logson, J. R. M. S. S.,
Meteorological Reporter to the
Government of Madras.



No. 802.

Dated 22nd August 1896.

Received 30th 80

Registered 18th Sep 396

Enclosures —

Spare copies. —

SUBJECT.

Relating the peculiar circumstances under which Miss E. Isis Logson Assistant to the Government Astronomer was only allowed a portion of the original pay of the appointment during her tenure of Office and the serious pecuniary loss she sustained in consequence and requesting that the Government of Madras will kindly take the matter into consideration and grant her compensation. Also asking that her present appointment of Meteorological Reporter to the Government of Madras may be placed on such a footing as will enable her to take privilege or full leave to recruit her health worn out by 22 years of service 13 of which were in the Madras service.

at the time, to take up the publication of the observations as desired, and to allow me to assist him. He however continued to devote the whole of his time and energies to taking astronomical observations of certain kinds which he considered Government probably required, and failed to clear off any of the arrears of publication. The following extract from his letter No 1016 dated 16th May 1881 to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras states clearly the causes and results of his want of action on that matter.

"The Government has already saved Rs 100 per month since June 16th, 1870, amounting to Rs 13,100 out of the Assistant Astronomer's pay, through my failure to publish the results of my predecessors' outstandings since 1844; the suggestion then being, for the Assistant Astronomer to draw Rs 150 until the 'magnetical and meteorological arrears were published; then Rs 200 until all astronomical arrears were in print, and Rs 250 when all arrears were surmounted up to date (I presume) of this order - Secretary of State, No 66 of 16th June 1870. Two Assistant Astronomers in succession have forfeited the increase through no fault of theirs, but simply from my inability to accomplish an impossibility. By partially abandoning my far too extensive astronomical undertakings, I might have saved my Assistants this loss, and had they been strangers instead of my own children, I should, in simple justice, have felt bound to sacrifice my scientific views to their advantage, but as matters stood I have studied the promotion of my science before the interests of my Assistants, and they have had to bear the loss in consequence."

The preceding remarks explain as clearly as possible the circumstances which prevented my ever obtaining the increments of my pay as Assistant Astronomer. The Government Astronomer in the extract acknowledges it was due to his own action and not to any fault of mine; nevertheless, as the wishes of Government had not been carried out, actually, the whole conflict of the direct punishment for this fell upon me, and I suffered pecuniarily for the fault of omission of my superior Officer. The publication of the observations in question might have been carried out in two years; on this supposition, I might and ought to have received Rs 200 for the second year of my term and Rs 250 for the third and remaining years of my service as Assistant Astronomer and hence Rs 11,200 more than I actually received up to the time when the appointment was so extraordinarily transferred to Mrs. Pogson.

The Government of Madras has on more than one occasion represented the hardships of my peculiar position to the Government of India, and recommended strongly that I should be granted pension, thus communicating to India that some of the hardships under which I suffered should be removed. It is not generally known that up to the present time the Government of India has refused to make any concession with respect

to pension, or granting me full pay or half pay and as my health is giving to such an extent that the Doctor has urged me to take long leave shortly, I've to submit these circumstances in which I received only a portion of the pay of appointment of Assistant Astronomer, when I was a whole time Officer under Government of Madras, in the hope that it will take a sympathetic and general view of these circumstances, and grant me such compensation as may be deemed commensurable to the pecuniary losses I have sustained as already explained, and at the same time place my appointment on such a footing as will enable me to take leave to England to recruit my health, worn out by 23 years service, the last 13 of which have been continuous in Madras.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
E. Pogson. -
Meteorological Reporter to the
Government of Madras.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	399	Pub	7-2-80
	845	Pub	8-2-80
	565	-	29-5-88
	446	-	25-3-87
	2323-4	-	4-11-86
	1285	-	19-6-86
	1003	-	18-5-86
	415	-	23-2-86
	173-6	-	26-1-86
	2907	-	14-12-85
	2706	-	29-11-85
	585	-	6-3-85
	1228	-	5-7-84
	959	-	27-11-73
		-	17-9-73

FURTHER PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

From

Miss E. Isis Pegson, F. R. Met. Soc.,
Meteorological Reporter to the Government of Madras,

 T_c

The Chief Secretary to Government,
With the Governor,
Stonehouse Hill.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the following statement of certain circumstances connected with my appointment as Assistant to the Government Astronomer, Madras, in the hope that the Government of Madras will be pleased to take them into consideration and grant me compensation for the heavy pecuniary loss which was inflicted on me by the very unusual conditions under which I held that appointment for many years.

I was appointed Assistant Astronomer in succession to my brother by the Secretary of State in September 1873. The sanctioned pay of the appointment was Rs 150 rising to Rs 250, by two increments of Rs 50, according to conditions laid down in Government Orders dated 7th April 1870 N^o 391, on letter N^o 36 from the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, (Public) to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Fort William, 21st March 1870, N^o 1511 and which were as follows:-

"It will, therefore, be recommended to the Secretary of State that Mr. Pogson is
"soon be appointed an Assistant on a salary of Rupees 150 per mensem
"to begin with, to be increased to Rupees 200 as soon as the publication of
"the unpublished portions of the twenty years' series of magnetic and
"meteorological observations has been completed, and to be still further
"increased to Rupees 250 as soon as the publication of all other arrears of
"observations, whether Astronomical, Meteorological or Magnetical, has
"been brought up to date."

The preceding statement shows clearly that the full pay of the appointment was from the first intended to be Rs 250 per mensem. The increase of the pay of the appointment from its initial amount of Rs 150 per mensem to Rs 250 per mensem was dependant, not on my own exertions, but on the completion of certain work which was in no way under my control, but under that of my superior Officer, the Government Astronomer. I was from the first anxious to assist to the fullest extent in carrying out the intentions and orders of Government as expressed in the above statement, and by my father, the Government Astronomer.

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[G.
25 A.]
1,000-21-3-96

Public DEPARTMENT

C. No. 2842

Miss Pogson's Case.

Hon Mr. H. W. Bliss C.I.E. FOR ORDERS.

Hon Mr. J. Grose C.I.E.

H.E. the Governor

Letter 4/24.6.85 in G.O. No. 1761 Pub
4/27.7.95

vide G.Os 399 Pubd 17.4.70 and 1065
Pubd 24.8.70

Had been alive, I remember, to
join in the question of what Miss
Pogson lost, years ago, by her father's
failure to do his work properly
so clear off his means. As to
the steps to be taken to enable
Miss Pogson to take leave to re-
visit her health, I agree with the
note below. But I also think
that another effort should be
made to get her service declared
pensionable from the first.

B.S.

17/9/10

JR

The circumstances under which
Miss E. Isie Pogson was appointed Asst
Astronomer were altogether peculiar.
In 1870, after repeated refusals
of assistance, some of which are
detailed in Mr. Pogson's letter
flagged H^o, the Secretary of State
ultimately sanctioned the appt
of the late Asst Astronomer's son
as his Assistant "on a salary of
Rs 150 per mensem to begin with, to
be increased to Rs 200 as soon as
the publication of the unpublished
portions of the twenty years' series
of magnetic & meteorological
observations had been completed,
and to be still further increased
to Rs 250 as soon as the publication
of all other arrears of observations,
whether astronomical, meteorological
or magnetic, had been brought up.

date." A perusal of the previous correspondence shows that this singular arrangement was due to the heavy arrears of work in connection with the publication of accumulated observations. In 1873 Miss Pogson stepped into her brother's place (he having shot himself).

The conditions not having been fulfilled Miss Pogson never obtained any increment to her pay as Asst. Astronomer.

In 1881 however, Mr. Pogson having expressed the wish to be freed from the incubus of "inferior pursuits", so as to be able to devote himself entirely to his astronomical work, Govt transferred the duties of the Meteorological Supt, hitherto conducted by him, to his daughter "on the same rate of pay, Rs 250 per mensem, and without prejudice to her appt as Asst to the Astronomer." In the papers read with G.O. 953 Pub d/14.7.81 Mr. Pogson remarked that he had unwillingly remained in charge as Meteorological Supt.

FOR ORDERS.

* vide G.O. 959 Pub d/17.9.73 (C)

H. E. THE GOVERNOR.

THE HON'BLE MR. H. W. BLISS, C.I.E.

THE HON'BLE MR. J. GROSE, C.I.E.

* G.O. 953 Pub d/14.7.81

[G.]
[25 A.]

1,229-213-206

DEPARTMENT.

C. No.

FOR ORDERS.

Supt - never as Reporter; but suggested that, for the sake of despatch of work, on the appt of his daughter, the title should be altered to "Meteorological Reporter." This was vetoed by Govt in that order, but was subsequently sanctioned, at the request of Miss Pogson herself, in G.O. 1480 Pub d/3.7.'84.

In 1885 Miss Pogson preferred the request that (1) her appt as Meteorological Reporter for Madras might be regarded as pensionable by its being made a separate one, and placed on the same footing as that of the Reporter at Bombay; and (2) that such increase to her salary, of Rs 250, might be sanctioned as appeared commensurate with the importance of the work.

Letter N^o. 654/21.2.85 in G.O. 565
Pub d/6.3.85

work done and the position she held in the dept. This letter was forwarded to Mr. Blandford, the Meteorological Reporter to the Govt of India with the remark that this Govt had no objections to raise.

In submitting the matter to Govt Mr. Blandford proposed that Miss Pogson should relinquish her appt as Asst Astronomer and devote her whole time to the Meteorological Reportership, and that her salary as Asst Astronomer should form part of her substantive salary as Meteorological Reporter, thus giving her Rs 150 + 250 = Rs 400 as such. This Govt however in its letter N^o 1761 Pub d/27.7.86 deprecated depriving Mr. Pogson of the allowance of Rs 150 granted him for an Asst, that sum being virtually an addⁿ to the salary of the Govt Astronomer himself.

In reply India stated that it could not recommend the amalgamation of salaries proposed.

FOR ORDERS.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR.

THE HON^{BLE} MR. H. W. BLISS, C.I.E.

THE HON^{BLE} MR. J. GROSE, C.I.E.

File letter N^o 156-14-8 d/2.11.86

proposed. Further finding that the duties of the Asst Astronomer were actually being performed by Mr. Pogson, India considered it desirable that Miss Pogson should vacate that appt, and that it should be subject to the discretion of H.E. in f^o, be conferred on the person by whom the duties were performed. In recognition however of Miss Pogson's services, India expressed its willingness to increase her local allowance as Meteorological Reporter by Rs 50. Mr. Pogson thus became Asst Astronomer.

x D
As this decision involved the ^{total} loss to Miss Pogson of a pensionable appt and a reduction of total emoluments from Rs 400 to Rs 300, India was, in letter N^o 173 Pub d/26.1.86, requested to reconsider the matter. From its reply recorded in G.O. W. 1003 Public d/15.5.86 it will be seen however that India declined to do this, but in view of the special circumstances of the case, acceded to the proposal of this Govt to grant Miss Pogson an additional ^{from Govt funds} allowance of Rs 100 for work (previously performed by the Govt Astronomer) in connection with the meteorological stations of the Board of Revenue.

The hardship of Miss Pogson's case was again represented by this Govt in its letter N° 2324 Pub d/4-11-86, in which it was contended that in other provinces where the Meteorological Reportership is not held in addition to any substantive appt., the post is considered pensionable, and ^{suggested} that the same principle should be extended to Madras.

India's reply to this declining to reconsider its former decision was final vide its letter N° 38 d/25.2.87 in f.O. 446 Pub-d/25.3.87 which latter formally appoints Mrs Pogson Asst. Astronomer.

Miss Pogson now (C.2842) states that it is evident that the full pay of the appt of Asst Astronomer was from the first intended to be Rs 2250 and as she was mulcted the increase of Rs 100 for no fault of hers, she calculates that during the 12 years in which she would in the ordinary course have drawn the full pay, she was a loser by Rs 14,200 or more. She quotes in extenso an extract from her father's letter N° 1016 d/16.5.81 in f.O. 953 Pub-d/14.7.81 in which he testifies to the fact that she ~~was~~ ^{had} forfeited

forfeited these increase ~~money~~ no fault of theirs, but simply from his inability to accomplish an impossibility.

She therefore asks that Govt will take a sympathetic and generous view of the circumstances of her case and grant her such compensation as may be deemed commensurate to the pecuniary losses sustained by her, (2) at the same time place her appt on such a footing as will enable her to take leave to recruit her health in England. She points out that she has put in 23 years service, the last 12 of which have been continuous in Madras.

With reference to the two requests preferred, it is observed that the question regarding compensation is one for the Public Dept, but that that in re the status of her present appt is for the Revenue Dept to consider.

In this Govt letter N° 2344 d/4.11.86 quoted above it was urged that Miss Pogson should not be deprived of the advantages as regards leave which, for the 12 years prior to that date, she had enjoyed. But as stated already India in reply flatly refuses.

refused to reconsider the matter: and it is submitted that no new facts have been elicited to justify the raising the question once more.

If however it be decided to attempt once more to represent matters to India, it is submitted that the exact status of Meteorological Reporter in the several provinces should first be ascertained.

It is not at all apparent how the question of compensation to Miss Pogson for her losses can be seriously entertained by this Govt.

It is submitted that C.S. Miss Pogson's request for compensation cannot possibly be entertained. It is believed that extraordinary calls on her purse have prevented Miss P. making provision for absence from her duties on acct of her health. If she were to submit a strong med. cert. this Govt. might forward it to the G. of I. with the strong recommendation that she might receive at least 50% of her allowance, which is 4000, while on leave. This wd. depend on whether any one cd. be found to do work for the remaining 2000.

This can probably be found out in the office Ganga & the Civil Dept.
MS J.

MS. R. L. Jones, who is quite confident
MS
It wd. be a question for Mr. Elliot. The Met. Dept. to the G. of I. This matter could be dealt with in Revenue. Sub. file is marked circulation.
MS 22.9.96

20 The Meteorological Reporter to Govt.
The point re status of other M. Rs. will be looked up meanwhile.
MSB
7/10

Public dept.

Go. W. 1117 of 10th Oct 96

H.E. the Governor in Council regrets his inability to consider the question of compensating Miss Pogson for any pecuniary loss she may have sustained owing to circumstances for which the Govt. was in no way responsible.

2. Miss Pogson will be requested to furnish a medical certificate of the necessity for her taking long leave shortly from orders.

MS 8.10.96

It is proposed to await the m.c. before addressing India. It wd. strengthen the case. If India will not consent to Miss P's service counting for pension and leave, then the alternative proposal can be sent up.