

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 1265

Dated 1-12-96

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Approving the action of the Supt. Govt. Press, in
having decided to furnish certain Compositors
at the Press with complete copies of G.Os No 694
of 1888 and 136 of 1889.

no pension. We need h 10

Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

CURRENT No.



From

The Superintendent,
Government Press,
Madras

No. 3268

For Orders.

The Pkts. are compositions of the
Govt. Press and their only request
at the present moment is
that they be supplied with
copies of

1. S.O. 694. Pub. 12. Aug. 88
2. S.O. 136. " 8. Feb. 89.

(Flags. A & B respectively)

Sara 1. in each of these S.Os was
communicated to the Compositors of the
Press at the time. Mr. Hile has
already told Mr. Petri. This
refused to grant copies of the
S.Os. in excuse. The official apt.
this. Submitted that the
Petri. should be told that
Mr. Hile's order was correct
and not to be interfered with.

Dated 14th November 1896.

Received 16
Registered 17 { 11-96

Enclosures — 6.

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Submits a petition from
certain compositors addressed
to the Chief Secretary, with
Superintendent's remarks.

11-96

no pension. We need to

in age and their last or highest pay is calculated for pension, ours retrogress with declining age and loss of vigor and consequently what is allowed us when retiring is no more than a mere pittance. Besides, all the privileges of the service so liberally conceded to permanent hands is absolutely denied us and thus makes our work a life long struggle to us.

In our struggle to earn an income above 10 Rs. a month with a view to make the sum pensionable, we must hardly state the many difficulties which beset us in our endeavours. We have not only very often to wait for materials for indefinite hours to set up a piece of work and sometimes for days for books to substitute the real article for that improvised during the process of composition, but when the work is completed and proof submitted first to the Rough Proof Reader and then to the Examiner, it often takes longer still to return to us, with whom time is money.

As we are unable to endure any longer the hardships imposed on our labors, and particularly the discretionary rates allowed us for certain class of work in an arbitrary manner, we venture to appeal to you for redress, in the hope that you, like the Roman Goddess - Justice - will us our superior, typify yourself in holding the scales with balanced eye equally and evenly, so that we may all, irrespective of our services in the Press, feel the influence of your just and impartial governance - for which act of kindness we shall feel ourselves

We beg to remain,
Sir,

Your most obedient & humble Serv

P. Puthuram Pillai

A. Suresh

L. S. S. S.

S. S. S.

M. S. S.

C. S. S.

P. S. S.

A. S. S.

M. S. S.

S. S. S.

C. S. S.

M. S. S.

A. S. S.

P. S. S.

S. S. S.

M. S. S.

T. S. S.

S. S. S.

M. S. S.

A. S. S.

M. S. S.

T. S. S.

M. S. S.

C. S. S.

M. S. S.

A. S. S.

M. S. S.

C. S. S.

P. S. S.

A. S. S.

T. S. S.

M. S. S.

A. S. S.

M. S. S.

C. S. S.

P. S. S.

S. S. S.

M. S. S.

A. S. S.

M. S. S.

Similar letters were received from the other composing depots.

Rt.

Madras, 11th July 1861

To
The Superintendent,
Government Press,
Madras.

Sir,

We the undersigned Composers of the respective
Department viz, Public, Revenue Board, Revenue, Public
Record, Book, Gazette, and Vernacular—beg to draw your
attention to our letter of the 17th June last and to solicit
you will kindly furnish us with a reply as soon as possible.

We further beg to state as we are about to petition
to Government on the several points in our petition, we
humbly solicit you will be good enough to record all our
sough-proofs from this month, for which we shall feel
grateful.

We beg to remain

Your most obedient servants,

Public Department	S. R. Putthnam Pillai
Revenue Board	M. Attankusamy
Revenue	G. Thanotharam
Public Works	S. S. S. S.
Old Record	Thaypal
Book	N. Ramany
Gazette	P. R. R. R.
Vernacular	P. R. R. R.

On behalf of British Composers

Maoras.
22nd Aug. 96

To

R. Hill, Esq.
Superintendent, Govt. Press.
Maoras,

Honored Sir,

We the compositors of the Govt. Press
humbly beg your honor to give the following
your kind consideration:-

We wrote two letters dated 27th June and
11th July 1896 to you complaining that our charges are
too low and that it was valued by yourself, Deputy
and Asst. at too low a rate without giving Consider-
ation to any scale whatever and we therefore very
respectfully beg you to let us know what has become
of the Old Scale that was drawn up by the order
of Govt. when the piece system was introduced by
a Committee including the Honble R. S. Ellis, Esq.,
who was then Chief Secretary and others.

2. We request you will favour us with a reply
at an early date so as to apply to His Excellency
the Governor in Council.

We beg to remain
Honored Sir,
your most obedt servants

P. R. Thirumalai

A. Thirumalai

G. Thirumalai

R. Thirumalai

P. Thirumalai

A. Thirumalai

no. 2/55

Govt. Press, Madras,
3rd September 1896.

Memorandum.

With reference to the letter dated the 22nd August 1896 from the marginally noted composers* asking for information regarding the old scale which was

* S. Ratham Pillai
M. Atharubaswami
G. Haniotharam
F. Sarvathamam
D. Gregory
P. Curmeppan
N. Rungaswamy

drawn up when the piece-work system was introduced in 1861, the Supt. informs them that this was first modified in 1862, and that the scale at present in use is that which was approved

by Govt. in G.O. No. 694 Dated dated 12th July 1888, and G.O. No. 136 Dated dated 8th February 1889, when replying to the petition from certain composers as to the rates paid, &c. This scale is well known to all composers in the Press, and is readily accessible for reference whenever necessary -

Sd/ J. Fisher
for Superintendent

L

Messrs. S. Ratham Pillai & Others.

(True copy)

Office

Supt. Govt. Press.
14/9/96

5th
2nd Nov. 1887

L

The Superintendent
Government Press
Madras.

Honored Sir,

G.O., No. 694, Pub., dated 12th July 1888.
G.O., No. 136, Pub., dated 8th February 1889.

We humbly request that
your honor will be kind
enough to furnish us with
copies of the marginally noted
Government Orders as we
require them for certain
information in connection
with the piece work system
now in vogue in the Govern-
ment Press.

For which act of kind-
ness we will feel very thank-
ful.

We beg to remain,
Honored Sir
Your Most Obedt. Servt.

S. Rethinam Pillai
to the undersigned
S. Kameswaram Naidu
S. Ramasamy Naidu
P. Rethinam Chetty.
D. Gregory
S. Sarnam Naidu

M. Schaefer, ^{5th} Nov. 1896.

The Chief Secretary Public, &c.,
Departments
(through the Superintendent Govt. Press)
Madras.

Honored Sir,

We humbly request that your honor
will be kind enough to furnish us with
copies of the marginally-noted Government
Orders as we require them
for certain information
in connection with the
piece work system now
in vogue in the Government
Press.

For which act of kindness we will
 feel very thankful.

We beg to remain
 Yours, &c.

Yours most Obedt. Servant

P. Rethanam Pillai
 S. Sankaranarayanan
 G. Kandaswami Aiyar
 M. Ramaswami Aiyar
 P. Rethanam Chetty
 S. Sankaranarayanan
 S. Sankaranarayanan

g. Hans Thomsen Haddw.
h. Rasmussen Haddw.

P. Rulhanam Chetty

L. Prunum Thamer

1891

The ... of ...

G. A. L.

1901. 2nd Nov. 1896

2

The Chief Secretary, Madras.

(From the Superintendent of Govt. Press)

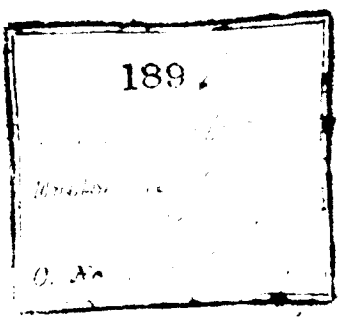
Madras

Enclosed

The enclosed report of the Superintendent of the Government Press, dated 15th July 1896, is forwarded for your consideration. The report contains a statement of the work done by the press during the year 1895-96, and a statement of the work done during the first six months of 1896-97. The report also contains a statement of the expenses incurred by the press during the year 1895-96, and a statement of the work done by the press during the year 1895-96.

C.O. No. 189, dated 15th July 1896.
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CURRENT No. 189

No. 3268

Govt. Press, Madras

14th November 1896

Office note

In forwarding the accompanying letter to the Secretary to Govt. from certain Compositors of the Govt. Press, dated 5th November 1896, the Superintendent submits that, in connection with this subject, he received the letters dated 27th June and 11th July 1896 marked (A) and (B). He called up some of the men, and explained to them that they had no valid grievance. It was natural for piece-work men to ask for the maximum pay for all work done, and the Deputy and Assistant Superintendents checked that the number of lines given for each piece of statement matter was in proportion to the labour involved and to the maximum scale in force. Further it was an impossibility to fix a hard and fast scale of line account that would cover all the varying descriptions of tabular work without the risk of a considerable loss to the employer in the aggregate, and of unfairness to some workmen, for it would make the work somewhat of the nature of a lottery for them, as one would often

it payment for 5 or 6 hours for work which took him only 1 or 2, like another of equal ability would receive the same amount for work which he could not finish under the 5 or 6 hours paid for. As a consequence it would open the door for irregularities in the distribution of the work. To avoid these risks it would be necessary to employ some compositors on permanent salary, to whom the easy work would be given as is done in nearly every office all over the world where a fixed scale is adopted for statement matter. In the Govt. Press with three practical printers as Superintendents a fair rate is given for all work done, and the system of employing permanent compositors for tabular work to save excessive piecework wages is avoided. The compositors then referred to the old scale of half extra and double the ordinary rates for half and full tabular statements, and they were told there was little likelihood of that scale being reintroduced for their advantage, as the conditions for work as regards supply of type, &c. were different. They were then reminded that their earnings were better than the earnings of men who applied for situations in the Govt. Press; that since July 1888

their work had been valued before entry in the line account book any differences of opinion between a compositor and the Assistant or Deputy Superintendents being reconsidered by them; and then if the compositor was not satisfied he came to the Superintendent. Each case was looked into carefully and if the Superintendent thought a few lines more ought to be given they were added at once; but in the majority of cases no change was made. Further many of the appeals were vexatious, and were made solely for the purpose of hoping to gain a little more, on the principle that they might gain by the appeal, but they had nothing to lose; this also applies to hours account for correction of author's proofs which for an appeal to the Superintendent sometimes delays the sending out of urgent work. They were also reminded that several of the petitioners present were old servants of Govt., and they were the leaders of discontent ever since the Superintendent had been in the press; that the discontent of men engaged since 1878 was unreasonable and that for men joining since July 1888 there could be no possible grievance, their discontent being the work of these few older men.

Papers to be read in proceedings:--

Again G.O., dated

189 , No.

Again G.O., dated

189 , No.

Current No. 3857 of 1896, dated 14th XI, from The Supdt, Govt Press

" "

" 189 , " , "

" "

" 189 , " , "

ORDER.
mi

No 1265 of 1-12-96

The petitioners will be informed that the Govt approves of the Superintendent's ^{in having} action ~~and~~ declined to ~~interfere~~ furnish them with complete copies of the for they quote.

3857
30/11/96.

*Note

GO. No 534 Pub 4/29th June, 1896 directs that appeals against punishments inflicted by the Supdt shall lie in the instance to the C.S. This is not an appeal against any punishment.

C.W.
30/11/96

is presumed on their length of service present groundless appeals against the rates and distribution of work.

2. On the 24th August 1896 the Superintendent received the letter marked (C) and on the 3rd September the accompanying memorandum (2-1) was given to the men.

3. On the 5th November, the petitioners gave the Superintendent the letter marked (D). They were informed that paragraph 1 of both G.Os., No. 694 Public, dated 12th July 1888, and No. 136 Public, dated 8th February 1889 had been given to the petitioners in 1888 and 1889 as directed by Govt., and duplicate copies of those paragraphs would be given them again, but copies of the entire G.Os would not be given. Upon this they handed in the letter addressed to the Chief Secretary and now forwarded.

L. Hill

Superintendent.

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government.

When given for copying 1/12
When copied 1/12
When examined 2/12 1896
When signed

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 189 DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO O. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.-

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.