

Public (1899) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 72

DATED 18-1-99

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Print Press, Madras

Passing orders on the memorial
from a number of compositors & piece workers
in the — complaining of certain grievances
& disadvantages which they are subject
to in connection with their work at the
Press.

T
18-1-99

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

[illegible]

Passing orders on the memorial from a number of compositors and piece-workers in the —, complaining of certain grievances and disadvantages which they are subject to in connection with their work at the Press.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

From the Compositors and Printers, Government Gazette Press, dated 30th March 1897..

From the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, dated 7th April 1897.

From the Superintendent, Government Press, dated 22nd May 1897, No. 2225.

Note by the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 6th January 1899.

The current for disposal in this file is a memorial from a number of the compositors and piece-workers in the Government Press complaining of the grievances and disadvantages which they are subject to while working at the Press, and setting forth their grievances. The memorial, which is somewhat confused and not easy to understand, touches on the following matters:—

(1) (Paragraphs 1 and 4.) The discretionary rates allowed for tabular matter. They complain that the Superintendent goes on reducing the scale of rates; that the men are never consulted, and that the rates are cut down week after week.

(2) (Paragraphs 2 and 3.) They complain that the scale of rates drawn up in 1861 has been altered, the Superintendent having deliberately framed another scale of rates and submitted the same to Government stating that it had the assent of the memorialists, and artfully obtained its sanction.

(3) (Paragraph 6.) They complain that they are underpaid for correction, which they hold should be done by a separate department.

(4) (Paragraph 7.) They complain that they sustain loss by the action of the Examining department.

(5) (Paragraph 8.) They want a work-table set up in the office.

(6) (Paragraph 10.) They complain that they are kept waiting for night-work, and say that in this connection piece-work should be done away with and hour-work substituted.

2. In paragraph 12, however, they sum up their grievances as follows:—

(a) They ask for a Commission of experts and non-official members of the Legislative Council to look into all the irregularities complained of.

(b) They ask that the em system which is followed in other Presidencies may be introduced into this Presidency also.

(c) They ask that promotions may be given to compositors according to their seniority in service.

(d) They ask that the Superintendent be required to produce the scale of rates framed by him subsequent to that framed by the last Commission.

3. Taking the complaints in the order of the memorial, complaint No. 1 is entirely unfounded. It is true that the valuation of tabular matter is in some measure discretionary, but this is inevitable and due to the nature of the work. The system followed in the Government Press is that largely adopted in printing offices throughout India and, in the hands of skilled and technical printers, works well. In such technical matters Government cannot interfere with the qualified officers whom it has imported to control the Press, and the matter should be left in their hands.

4. As to the second complaint, this also is entirely unfounded. There has been no change in the rate, which has been two annas for 1,000 ens of plain matter since the Commission, and the rate remains the same still.

5. Their third complaint cannot be entertained. To allow correction to be done by a separate department would obviously be a premium on careless and bad work. The rates as fixed by the Commission were fixed for correct work. The rule of the Press is that, except in special instances settled beforehand, author's corrections are valued and paid for.

6. As to the fourth complaint, it is likely that the Examining department is capable of improvement. If the Examining department is not efficient, the Superintendent should remove without hesitation any one not fit for the work. His attention should be called to the matter on which he should report.

7. As to their fifth complaint, the memorialists themselves had no definite idea as to what they wanted, but their meaning seems to have been to assert that there was a delay or improper dealing in the distribution of copy. I could not find that there was any good ground to suppose that there was anything objectionable occurring in regard to this matter.

8. As to their sixth complaint, it seems plain that the same reason which rendered expedient the change from the time-work system to the piece-work system precludes the proposal to treat night-work on the hour system.

9. As to the requests contained in the last paragraph of the memorial, the request for the appointment of a Commission is quite unnecessary and should not be acceded to.

10. The request that em system followed in other Presidencies may be introduced here also is meaningless in its present form since two ens are equal to one em universally. What really the memorialists seem to have intended to convey was a request that tabular matter and solid matter should be valued in exactly the same manner. The request is on its face obviously absurd and unjust to Government and would very largely increase the cost of tabular matter to the great benefit of the petitioners.

11. It is not expedient that promotion should be given to the compositors according to seniority in service. Piece-workers have no service and the object of the system is to pay each man what he earns by his skill. In such a system each man's promotion is in his own hands. Good work at once shows and promotion follows on it.

12. In regard to the request that the Superintendent be called upon to produce the scale of rates framed by him subsequent to that framed by the last Commission, attention is requested to G.O., R. No. 2, Public, dated 2nd January 1899.

13. In conclusion it is only necessary to add that the Chief Secretary has twice visited the Press in connection with this complaint, has gone carefully into the working of the matters complained of at the Press itself and in communication with the Superintendent, and has gone through their memorial with the more intelligent of the piece-work compositors who have signed it and who seemed to be the prime movers in its submission, and has endeavoured to understand what they meant to convey and what in effect were their grievances, if any.

Public (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 1379

No. 72, PUBLIC, 18TH JANUARY 1899.

ORDER—No. 72, Public, dated 18th January 1899.

His Excellency the Governor in Council entirely agrees with the views expressed by the Chief Secretary in his note above recorded.

2. The Superintendent, Government Press, will report on the matter referred to in paragraph 6 of the Chief Secretary's note.

3. The Government observes that the memorial is in certain passages distinctly insubordinate in tone, more especially towards the Superintendent of the Press. It will be pointed out to the memorialists that subordination must be insisted on, and that the orders of the Superintendent, who possesses the confidence of Government, must be implicitly obeyed.

(True Extract.)

G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

Order

From the Compositors of the Press
Govt Gazette Press
Adm.

To the Superintendent, Government Press.

No.

Dated 30-3-97

Received 6 } - 4 97

Registered 7 }

Enclosures 1

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Submitting a memorial
Complaining of the financial
and disadvantages they
are subject to at the hands
of both the Foreman & Capt.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Exhibit A.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

From the Compositors of the Government Press, dated 21st January, 20th February and 18th April 1888.

From the Superintendent, Government Press, dated 6th February and 19th April 1888, Nos. 3632 and 185, respectively.

ORDER—12th July 1888, No. 694.

The petitioners will be informed that His Excellency the Governor in Council after a careful consideration of the representations made in the foregoing papers, is of opinion that they have no valid grievance, except perhaps as regards the discretionary rates allowed for Tabular Matter, and the operations of the present leave and pension rules, so far as they affect piece-work men. These will be remedied as far as possible, but the sanction of the Government of India will have to be obtained for any alteration in the leave and pension rules. There is no grounds for the appointment of a Commission or for the revival of the office of the Supervisor and a scale of allowance fixed with a reference to the nature of the work done practically, means the abolition of piece-work system and is quite out of the question.

* * * *

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. S. MAYER,
Assistant Secretary.

(Signed) R. HILL,
Superintendent.

20-7-88.

To B. Melder and other Compositors of the Government Press,
through the Superintendent.

Exhibit B.

From the Piece Work Compositors of the Government Press, Madras, to R. HILL, Esq.,
Superintendent, Government Press, Madras, dated—June 1890.

We, the undersigned Compositors of the Secret^{ariat} Department, Government Press, beg most respectfully to bring the following to your generous and sympathetic consideration.

It is not unknown to you that when we petitioned Government some 8 years ago regarding the great disadvantages we are laboring under as piece-work men, how our grievances represented therein in respect to arbitrary reduction of charges, sundays and holidays being unprofitable, all durations of illness and enumerative periods of income below 10 Rupees a month carrying no pension, and last, not least, salaries for pension retrogressing with declining age and loss of vigor, met with their sympathy, and in their order conveyed to us through you, assured us that the evils complained of will be remedied as far as possible.

From that period to this, we find that instead of our condition being in some way ameliorated, our salaries are dwindling still lower into insignificance by the curtailment of charges, which are cut down according to the whims and fancies of Foremen in the first instance, or rough account and then by the Deputy and Assistant Superintendents in the fair or final book entry. What is considered reasonable by them in one month is deemed excessive in a subsequent one for similar work, and under such circumstance how are we to calculate an income. If in the prime of life we can barely earn sufficient sums with existing rates, to maintain ourselves and families, is it possible we can do so in advanced age to entitle us to any respectable pension. We need hardly point out the fact to you that while the salaries of the permanent staff progress as the recipients advance in age and their last or highest pay is calculated for pension, our 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 drudgery to us.

In our struggles to earn an income about 10 Rupees a month with a view to make the sum pensionable, we need 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 *sorts* 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 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, as our superior, typify yourself in holding the scales with bandaged eyes equally and evenly, so that we may all, irrespective of our services in the press, feel the influence of your just and impartial grievance. For which act of kindness we shall feel extremely grateful and as in duty bound ever pray.

Exhibit C.

From A. S. RUTHINAM PILLAY and others, Compositors, Government Press, to R. HILL, Esq., Superintendent, Government Press, Madras, dated 22nd August 1896.

We the Compositors of the Government Press, humbly beg your honour 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 Assistant at too low a rate without giving consideration 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 Orders of Government when the piece system was introduced by a Committee including the Hon'ble R. S. Ellis, Esq., who was then Chief Secretary, and others.

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

Exhibit D.

Memorandum, No. 2155, dated Government Press, Madras, 3rd September 1896.

With reference to the letter, dated the 22nd August 1896, from the marginally

S. Ruthnam Pillay.
M. Atherubasawmy.
G. Thamotheeram.
F. Sarvuthoman.

G. Gregory.
P. Cunneappan.
N. Rungaswami.

noted Compositors asking for information regarding the old scale which was drawn up when the piece work system was introduced in 1861, the Superintendent informs them

that this was first modified in 1862, and that the scale at present in use is that which was approved by Government in G. O., No. 694 Public, dated 12th July 1888, and G. O., No. 136 Public, 18th dated February 1889, when replying to the petition from certain compositors as to the rates paid, &c. This scale is well known to all compositors in the press, and is readily accessible for reference whenever necessary.

(Signed) R. FISHER, Dy.,
for Superintendent.

To Messrs. S. Ruthnam Pillai, and others.

Exhibit E.

From the Compositors, Madras Government Press, to the Chief Secretary, Public, &c., Departments, through the Superintendent, Government Press, Madras, dated September 1896.

We kindly request that your honour 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.

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

For which act of kindness, we will feel very thankful.

CHIEF SECRETARY
-6 APR. 1897
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

To

His Excellency The Right Honourable
The Governor in Council,
FORT ST. GEORGE.

The humble Memorial of the undersigned
Compositors of the Piece Work Department,
Government Gazette Press, Mint
Buildings, Madras.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

1. That the Memorialists in the year 1888 submitted a petition to Government complaining of the grievances and disadvantages they were subject to at the hands of both the Foremen and Superintendent, when an order was passed thereon dated 12th July 1888, No. 694, which *inter alia* stated thus:—"except perhaps as regards the discretionary rates allowed for Tabular matter" "and the operations of the present leave and pension rules, as far as they affect" "Piece Workmen, these will be remedied as far as possible." That this order was communicated to the Superintendent who failed to give Memorialists such remedy as will appear below, hence Memorialists are constrained to re-address Government on the same subject and to recapitulate their grievances.

2. That originally the system adopted by Government with reference to your Memorialists was permanent and fixed salaries, but it having come to the cognizance of Government that at that time certain Departmental defects were existing and that undue preference was being given to juniors the Piece system was introduced, whereby Memorialists' emoluments would be advantageous and proportionately served out, to carry out which system a Commission was organized in 1861 who drew up a scale of rates intended to make up or compensate Memorialists for deprivation of certain privileges (which the permanent hands enjoy) such as illness, Government holidays, Sunday, and slackness in work, *thus enabling Memorialists* to provide for their family and themselves in their dotage.

3. That in the face of such order of Government, the Superintendent has most deliberately framed another scale of rates, clandestinely submitted the same to Government stating that it had the assent of Memorialists and artfully obtained its sanction. Of all these his doings Memorialists were kept in perfect darkness and only came to know of the same in May 1896—by the accompanying endorsement on their petition to the Superintendent, Exhibit E. Whereupon Memorialists repeatedly addressed the Superintendent requesting him to furnish them with the old as well as the new scales as also for copies of G. Os., No. 694, Public Department dated 12th July 1888, G. O. No. 136, Public Department, dated 8th February 1889 and Miscellaneous G. O. No. 1265 dated 1st December 1896 all of which were refused to Memorialists without any tangible grounds being assigned for the refusal. A reference to the accompanying Exhibits A, B, C, D, and E will bear testimony to their statements.

4. That not being satisfied with what he had done, the Superintendent still goes on reducing the scale of rates *already* reduced as stated above and that as regards the scale for Tabular work the Memorialists are never consulted with and their work is merely rated according to the whims and fancies of Foremen Compositors in the first rough account and the Superintendents in the Fair Final Book Entry, and rates considered reasonable in one month, are in the subsequent month deemed *excessive* and cut down and decreased for similar work and Memori-

alists are quite ignorant as to what salary they would actually draw, until the day of payment, when to their utter dismay and surprise they are made recipients of paltry sums, which quite dishearten them.

5. That the labor taken by them for a page, when the piece system was introduced, is the same even to this day. While such is the case the Memorialists do not see any reason whatever for reducing their rates. If the plea is that the printing work has increased, the printing work should be reduced and not their rates which is very unjust. At the time when the piece system was first introduced the market rates were very low and things were very cheap. Whereas as the rates in the market are double now and things are very dear, the Memorialists should be paid increased rates for the work turned out by them. In lieu of this their actual wages are reduced.

6. That they are quite underpaid for correction in the Authors' Proofs which is very tedious and takes time and must ask the kind Government to adopt the same system which is in vogue as in the other Presidencies, viz., to leave a separate Department for this work designating it as the "Correction Department" which system will save Memorialists from suffering loss and prevent delays.

7. That they sustain a loss by the examining branch of the Press where many unpassed and inefficient men are employed on higher salaries when graduates or other efficient men can be had who would work better and more intelligently than the present staff of examiners. The proofs at present pass through three hands unnecessarily before they are finally struck out which not only delays the work but also takes much of their time. If the Examiner is intelligent and efficient, the proof will be passed by one man so that there will be no loss of paper, loss of time, loss of labour to pressmen and the compositors. All these are consequent upon the employment of several unpassed and inefficient men as examiners.

8. That Memorialists would urge upon Government to order a time or work table being kept in a prominent part of the press building showing what work is distributed, when distributed, when completed and delivered and the rate at which their work is to be charged as is done in the other Presidencies so that it could not only be ascertained who works, who are working hard and who are idle and also the amount they will get for the work done by them which will be a sort of encouragement to them.

9. That while about 10 men could complete certain quantity of work treble the number are engaged and that the Superintendent is actually robbing the poor and feeding the rich. Memorialists are treated more like slaves than ordinary beings and they cannot find words to express the tyranny which they suffer.

10. That work is now often exacted from the Memorialists at nights, and that they are paid very little for the same. That it would be just and preferable to pay Memorialists for night work at so much for hour which shall be at least double the day rate per hour. That at present, very often when ordered for night duty, Memorialists wait till 10 or 12 at night and get no work at all and in consequence no wages for the time they are kept waiting uselessly. And that for the foregoing reasons the present system of remuneration for night work should be at once done away with and the charge suggested by Memorialists or something similar introduced instead.

11. Memorialists leave it for Government to judge and decide how Memorialists possibly could in their dotage become entitled to anything like decent pension under the last 5 years' service when the very sap and juice is drained out

of them in their younger years and under the incessant decrease in scale of rates, and beg to point out to Government and that very *prominently* (which would not be out of place) that the Superintendent deliberately is practising deception on them by paying Memorialists for 53 lines, when they have actually turned out about 69 lines and converts the solid matter into lead out scale.

Under the above circumstances the Memorialists pray :—

- I. That this their Memorial will be accepted and considered.
- II. That to do thorough justice to the Memorialists a Commission of experts from other Presidencies thoroughly acquainted with printing may be appointed to look into all the irregularities complained of, which Memorialists will not only establish in person but will also bring to light other irregularities and grievances they are subject to.
- III. That the *em* system which is followed in the other Presidencies may be introduced in this Presidency also. The introduction of this will not only effect a saving of Rs. 2,000 per month under supervision, but will also justly compensate the Compositors for the work done by them. If this *em* system be not introduced, Memorialists pray that they be paid hereafter *fixed* monthly salaries according to the classification in force previous to the year 1861.
- IV. That promotions may be given to Compositors according to their seniority in service, but not according to favouritism, as persons of long service are kept in the back ground while new-comers are appointed as secret compositors, annual index compositors, imposers and foremen.
- V. That the Superintendent be called upon to produce before such Commission the scale of rate framed by him subsequent to that framed by the last Commission, as also the G. O. 694 dated 12th July 1888, G.O. 136 dated 8th February 1889, and Mis. G. O. 1265 dated 1st December 1896. which Memorialists were refused to be furnished with.

For which prayer, if granted, Memorialists as in duty bound,

30th March 1897.

WILL EVER PRAY.

*S. Ruthnam Pillai
and 300 others*

** and non-official
members of the
Legislative Council
PR*

Public (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 1412



From H. A. Sim Esqr. Ill.
Ag Private Secretary to
H. E. The Governor.

CS
Order

W3
12/4/97
W3
12/4/97

Submitted to the CS.

No.

with whom it is understood
the orders, quoted in the petition
are.

Order No. 879

Dated 7 April 1897.

Received 9

Registered 9

Enclosures 1

Spare copies

CS
10/4/97

W3
10/4/97

Forwarded to the Secy

for his remarks

h2

12/4/97

SUBJECT.

Transfers a petition of
5 April 1897 from the Com-
pounders of the Piece Work Depart-
ment, Govt. Gazette Press, Print
Buildings, Madras, praying that
a Commission may be appoint-
ed to enquire into their nu-
merous grievances & that just
be rendered to them.

(187 words)

20
The Secy, Govt. Press with petn
Des 14/4/97

C.S. has got Out C No 4110 of 1896
re piecework rates. The orders
quoted in this petition are with that file
10/4/97

L. H. M.
Ag Private Secretary

Madras. 5th April 97. 1412/14

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

P.
His Excellency the
Governor of Madras.

We wanted to present this
petition to Your Excellency in person
but unfortunately we were prevented
from doing so as the Superintendent may
find fault with us & dismiss us as he
has done with ^{the} pressmen. Your Excellency
we fully believe will give Your Excellency
serious attention to the matter & render us
(poor people) justice.

Your Excellency's
Your Most Obedient & Humble
Servants
S. Parthenam Pillai
and others

Public (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 1957

Order

From

The Superintendent,
Government Press

No. 2255



Dated 22nd May 1897

Received 25

Registered 25

5-97

Enclosures 1

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Returning the petition
of the Piecework Compositors
with remarks.

850 87
papers mks C 4110

~~No Thanks~~
~~Civil~~
29/5/97

In our struggles to earn in income about 10 Rupees a month with a view to make the sum pensionable, we need 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 *sorts* 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 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, as our superior, typify yourself in holding the scales with bandaged eyes equally and evenly, so that we may all, irrespective of our services in the press, feel the influence of your just and impartial grievance. For which act of kindness we shall feel extremely grateful and as in duty bound ever pray.

Exhibit C.

From A. S. RUTHINAM PILLAY and others, Compositors, Government Press, to R. HILL, Esq., Superintendent, Government Press, Madras, dated 22nd August 1896.

We the Compositors of the Government Press, humbly beg your honour 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 Assistant at too low a rate without giving consideration 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 Orders of Government when the piece system was introduced by a Committee including the Hon'ble R. S. Ellis, Esq., who was then Chief Secretary, and others.

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

Exhibit D.

Memorandum, No. 2155, dated Government Press, Madras, 3rd September 1896.

With reference to the letter, dated the 22nd August 1896, from the marginally noted Compositors asking for information regarding the old scale which was drawn up when the piece work system was introduced in 1861, the Superintendent informs them

S. Ruthnam Pillay.
M. Atherubasawmy.
G. Thamotharam.
F. Sarvuthoman.

G. Gregory.
P. Cunneappan.
N. Rungaswami.

that this was first modified in 1862, and that the scale at present in use is that which was approved by Government in G. O., No. 694 Public, dated 12th July 1888, and G. O., No. 136 Public, 18th dated February 1889, when replying to the petition from certain compositors as to the rates paid, &c. This scale is well known to all compositors in the press, and is readily accessible for reference whenever necessary.

(Signed) R. FISHER, Dy.,
for Superintendent.

To Messrs. S. Ruthnam Pillai, and others.

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For which act of kindness, we will feel very thankful.

To

His Excellency The Right Honourable
The Governor in Council,
FORT ST. GEORGE.

*The humble Memorial of the undersigned
Compositors of the Piece Work Department,
Government Gazette Press, Mint
Buildings, Madras.*

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

1. That the Memorialists in the year 1888 submitted a petition to Government complaining of the grievances and disadvantages they were subject to at the hands of both the Foremen and Superintendent, when an order was passed thereon dated 12th July 1888, No. 694, which *inter alia* stated thus:—"except perhaps as regards the discretionary rates allowed for Tabular matter" "and the operations of the present leave and pension rules, as far as they affect" "Piece Workmen, these will be remedied as far as possible." That this order was communicated to the Superintendent who failed to give Memorialists such remedy as will appear below, hence Memorialists are constrained to re-address Government on the same subject and to recapitulate their grievances.

2. That originally the system adopted by Government with reference to your Memorialists was permanent and fixed salaries, but it having come to the cognizance of Government that at that time certain Departmental defects were existing and that undue preference was being given to juniors the Piece system was introduced, whereby Memorialists' emoluments would be advantageous and proportionately served out, to carry out which system a Commission was organized in 1861 who drew up a scale of rates intended to make up or compensate Memorialists for deprivation of certain privileges (which the permanent hands enjoy) such as illness, Government holidays, Sunday, and slackness in work, thus enabling Memorialists to provide for their family and themselves in their dotage.

3. That in the face of such order of Government, the Superintendent has most deliberately framed another scale of rates, clandestinely submitted the same to Government stating that it had the assent of Memorialists and artfully obtained its sanction. Of all these his doings Memorialists were kept in perfect darkness and only came to know of the same in May 1896—by the accompanying endorsement on their petition to the Superintendent, Exhibit E. Whereupon Memorialists repeatedly addressed the Superintendent requesting him to furnish them with the old as well as the new scales as also for copies of G. Os., No. 694, Public Department dated 12th July 1888, G. O. No. 136, Public Department, dated 8th February 1889 and Miscellaneous G. O. No. 1265 dated 1st December 1896 all of which were refused to Memorialists without any tangible grounds being assigned for the refusal. A reference to the accompanying Exhibits A, B, C, D, and E will bear testimony to their statements.

4. That not being satisfied with what he had done, the Superintendent still goes on reducing the scale of rates *already* reduced as stated above and that as regards the scale for Tabular work the Memorialists are never consulted with and their work is merely rated according to the whims and fancies of Foremen Compositors in the first rough account and the Superintendents in the Fair Final Book Entry, and rates considered reasonable in one month, are in the subsequent month deemed *excessive* and cut down and decreased for similar work and Memori-

alists are quite ignorant as to what salary they would actually draw, until the day of payment, when to their utter dismay and surprise they are made recipients of paltry sums, which quite dishearten them.

5. That the labor taken by them for a page, when the piece system was introduced, is the same even to this day. While such is the case the Memorialists do not see any reason whatever for reducing their rates. If the plea is that the printing work has increased, the printing work should be reduced and not their rates which is very unjust. At the time when the piece system was first introduced the market rates were very low and things were very cheap. Whereas as the rates in the market are double now and things are very dear, the Memorialists should be paid increased rates for the work turned out by them. In lieu of this their actual wages are reduced.

6. That they are quite underpaid for correction in the Authors' Proofs which is very tedious and takes time and must ask the kind Government to adopt the same system which is in vogue as in the other Presidencies, viz., to leave a separate Department for this work designating it as the "Correction Department" which system will save Memorialists from suffering loss and prevent delays.

7. That they sustain a loss by the examining branch of the Press where many unpassed and inefficient men are employed on higher salaries when graduates or other efficient men can be had who would work better and more intelligently than the present staff of examiners. The proofs at present pass through three hands unnecessarily before they are finally struck out which not only delays the work but also takes much of their time. If the Examiner is intelligent and efficient, the proof will be passed by one man so that there will be no loss of paper, loss of time, loss of labour to pressmen and the compositors. All these are consequent upon the employment of several unpassed and inefficient men as examiners.

8. That Memorialists would urge upon Government to order a time or work table being kept in a prominent part of the press building showing what work is distributed, when distributed, when completed and delivered and the rate at which their work is to be charged as is done in the other Presidencies so that it could not only be ascertained who works, who are working hard and who are idle and also the amount they will get for the work done by them which will be a sort of encouragement to them.

9. That while about 10 men could complete certain quantity of work treble the number are engaged and that the Superintendent is actually robbing the poor and feeding the rich. Memorialists are treated more like slaves than ordinary beings and they cannot find words to express the tyranny which they suffer.

10. That work is now often exacted from the Memorialists at nights, and that they are paid very little for the same. That it would be just and preferable to pay Memorialists for night work at so much for hour which shall be at least double the day rate per hour. That at present, very often when ordered for night duty, Memorialists wait till 10 or 12 at night and get no work at all and in consequence no wages for the time they are kept waiting uselessly. And that for the foregoing reasons the present system of remuneration for night work should be at once done away with and the charge suggested by Memorialists or something similar introduced instead.

11. Memorialists leave it for Government to judge and decide how Memorialists possibly could in their dotage become entitled to anything like decent pension under the last 5 years' service when the very sap and juice is drained out

of them in their younger years and under the incessant decrease in scale of rates, and beg to point out to Government and that very prominently (which would not be out of place) that the Superintendent deliberately is practising deception on them by paying Memorialists for 53 lines, when they have actually turned out about 69 lines and converts the solid matter into lead out scale.

Under the above circumstances the Memorialists pray :—

- I. That this their Memorial will be accepted and considered.
- II. That to do thorough justice to the Memorialists a Commission of experts from other Presidencies thoroughly acquainted with printing may be appointed to look into all the irregularities complained of, which Memorialists will not only establish in person but will also bring to light other irregularities and grievances they are subject to.
- III. That the *em* system which is followed in the other Presidencies may be introduced in this Presidency also. The introduction of this will not only effect a saving of Rs. 2,000 per month under supervision, but will also justly compensate the Compositors for the work done by them. If this *em* system be not introduced, Memorialists pray that they be paid hereafter *fixed* monthly salaries according to the classification in force previous to the year 1861.
- IV. That promotions may be given to Compositors according to their seniority in service, but not according to favouritism, as persons of long service are kept in the back ground while new-comers are appointed as secret compositors, annual index compositors, imposers and foremen.
- V. That the Superintendent be called upon to produce before such Commission the scale of rate framed by him subsequent to that framed by the last Commission, as also the G. O. 694 dated 12th July 1888, G.O. 136 dated 8th February 1889, and Mis. G. O. 1265 dated 1st December 1896. which Memorialists were refused to be furnished with.

For which prayer, if granted, Memorialists as in duty bound,

30th March 1897.

WILL EVER PRAY.

L. Parthasarathy Pillai

G. Hanumantharam Naidu

T. Samanthan

P. G. G. G.

W. Ramaswamy

P. Chinnappa

B. G. G. G.

L. G. G. G.

L. Parthasarathy

A. Govindaswamy Mudali

J. Pope

*and none official
members of the
Legislative Council
P.P.*

Builder

P. Panaimathan
M. Thomas any truly
M. Annamalai
M. Prinsan any

Govindasamy

A. S. S. S. S. S.

T. Ramasamy

M. Mainam

A. Joseph

P. Annappan

P. Sundaram

C. Thimboos

C. Anthonysamy

B. S. S. S. S.

C. S. S. S. S.

P. S. S. S. S.

T. Balakrishnan

V. Ramasamy

P. Govindasamy

S. S. S. S. S.

C. David

K. Mathiasamy

M. Mahalanathan

S. S. S. S. S.

M. S. S. S. S.

J. Govindasamy

T. Morrisamy

R. Kathiravathi

S. Ponnathur

V. S. S. S. S.

K. S. S. S. S.

C. Govindasamy

T. Balasubramanyam

A. Balasubramanyam

V. S. S. S. S.

M. Mainam

C. Govindasamy

P. S. S. S. S.

T. S. S. S. S.

P. S. S. S. S.

N. S. S. S. S.

M. S. S. S. S.

S. S. S. S. S.

S. S. S. S. S.

R. S. S. S. S.

S. S. S. S. S.

Anthony S. S. S.

P. S. S. S. S.

S. S. S. S. S.

S. S. S. S. S.

C. S. S. S. S.

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C. S. S. S. S.

D. S. S. S. S.

D. S. S. S. S.

M. S. S. S. S.

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P. S. S. S. S.

K. S. S. S. S.

S. S. S. S. S.

M. S. S. S. S.

B. Annals
7. Extra vol
A. Japan House

To Moonosany
 Anabany
 A. Solomon
 G. Yarnapany
 Henda
 P. V. Karoyanabany
 N. Pomusany
 J. D. Foster
 V. Hornogaw.
 Muriar
 H. H. H. H.
 B. B. B. B.
 A. H. H. H.
 L. M. H. H.

No. 2255 CURRENT 195

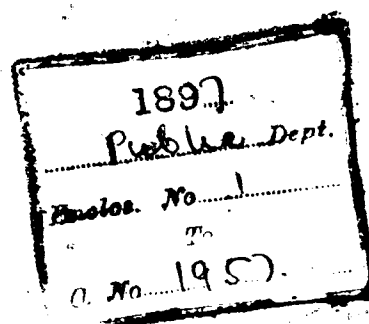
Govt. Press, Madras

22nd May 1897

Office Note

I am returning the accompanying petition from certain compositors of the Govt. Press, dated 30th March 1897, forwarded with Memorandum, No. 879, dated 14th April 1897, the Superintendent Govt. Press considers that this petition contains the substance of three petitions forwarded to Government in January, February, and December 1888, and reported upon in Office notes, Nos. E 3682, dated 6th February 1888, No. 185, E³ dated 19th April 1888, and No. 3224, N² dated 24th December 1888, and disposed of in G.O., No. 694 Public, dated 12th July 1888, and No. 136 Public, dated 8th February 1889. All the points raised in the memorial have also been answered in Office Note, No. 4110 of 96. A⁴ 3451, dated 28th November 1896, in reply to the enquiry in G.O., No. 635 Financial, dated 28th October 1896, why the compositors at the Govt. Press are enabled to earn much above the ordinary trade rates in Madras.

2. The one change made in 1888 and still in force consequent on the above orders was that the compositors are able to see the line value fixed for their tabular work



Public

1412

3. The Superintendent submits that the compositors have no real grievance as regards the scales of force for valuing tabular work. Government employ three practical printers as Superintendents to interpret these scales, and to see that there is no wasteful expenditure; care being taken that the maximum rate is allowed for close (or heavy) tabular work only; all other ^{tabular} work of a lighter description being proportionately reduced. The Compositor desires that this discretionary power of making the money value agent to the labour involved shall be abolished. To abolish it means that the compositors would often earn 10 annas an hour, or even more, instead of 2 annas as fixed by Government in 1861, as a partial return to a permanent establishment of compositors to do this work more economically. The tabular work is so varied that it is impracticable to fix a hard and fast scale for each kind.

4. According to the Hand-book of the Central Printing Office, Calcutta, for Book-work a proportionate reduction is made in that press;

Q. 801640 of 14-12-61 Flagged C

The first of these is the fact that the
 second of these is the fact that the
 third of these is the fact that the
 fourth of these is the fact that the
 fifth of these is the fact that the

"The petitioners will be informed that the Government have considered the representations made in their petition and that they decline to interfere."

of open tabular matter as compared with the maximum allowed for close tabular matter; proportional reductions are made for longer or shorter blanks in a page; and special reduced payments are made for work in which a number of standing heads, columns of leaders, blank columns, &c., occur as in For. Job and Travellers with fixed rates assigned as far as possible, and unclassified work is submitted for orders. I think the system which is followed in the For. Job, and against which the monopolists are continually objecting, with the maximum rate paid in the For. Job of India, for the close tabular work is 31% over their solid matter rate, whereas the London Book Press pays 50% above the solid rate of 2 s. 6 d. for the same class of work.

Under Paragraph 1 of the Memorial -
This was dealt with in para 2 of
Office Note, No. 3224, dated 24th
December 1888, and disposed of
in para 1 of Ld's No. 136-Bulletin,
dated 8th February 1889.
Under Paragraph 3 of the Memorial -
The Superintendent is aware of
any scale of rates being in force
other than those revised in May 1887
and approved of by Government in
1888. When the number of columns
or the nature of the text has been

ituted in any way the numbers
lines paid for paper, form, and
standing work, no department lists,
indexes, &c., & that of course have
increased or decreased to make
the payment equal to the basis
of 2 cents per 1,000 words.

7. Paragraph 2 of the Memorial
The assertions in this paragraph
are absolutely false; and the
Superintendent regrets it is not
in his power to deal with these
men as they should be dealt with
for making such statements.

8. Paragraph 5 of the Memorial
The first statement is also untrue.
The Casting department supplies
ample material now, whereas
formerly the men had to go often
to use unsuitable materials from
the work, which caused ^{them} to be
longer over it.

9. Paragraph 6 of the Memorial
The Superintendent is unaware of
any separate department being
kept in the other large Govt. Press
for ordinary authors' corrections.
Monthly and quarterly returns
may be altered on time account,
or by a time account equivalent
as is done in this Press. By the
system of valuation in force
a good man can earn as much,
if not more than, when setting
solid matter. Correcting work
is distasteful to many men,

have their desire to be rid of it.
To keep a special staff for authors'
corrections would be very wasteful
as they would often be without
work.

10. Paragraph 7 of the Memorial
The efficiency of the examining dept.
is closely watched by the Superintendents
and Head Examiners. It is but
natural that the Compositors
should dislike the examiners
and proofreaders, who have to
rectify their work.

11. Paragraph 8 of the Memorial
Work-books are maintained in all
departments, showing receipt,
progress of work, &c., special care
being taken that work is given to
all in rotation, and there is
no difficulty in discovering
the efficient workers by their
earnings.

12. Paragraph 9 of the Memorial
The first sentence is unintelligible to
the undersigned. It is presumed
that objection is taken to the number
of men employed in the explained in
paragraph 9 (iii) of Official Note, No. 1
C 754110 D 3451, dated 22nd November 1896, then
cannot be obtained until Government
Officers refrain from sending in
any urgent work, which is an
impossibility. The second sentence
is, it is needless to say, wholly
untrue.

in 13th Paragraph of the Memorial
 It is very tedious composition work
 beyond 8 p.m. and often only paper
 special papers which keep them
 employed the whole time they
 are working beyond 8 p.m., and
 they are correcting their own
 settings done earlier in the
 evening. The Superintendent
 does not recommend any extra
 allowances for piecework compared
 when working late in the evening.

- 14th Paragraph of the Memorial

The Superintendent submits that in
 1887 when he revised the scales he
 did not alter the small pica rate,
 because it made no material
 difference to the compositor's setting
 solid matter. It glances through
 the salience of proceedings, reports,
 and bookwork will show how
 little small pica tabular work
 is done, nearly all being printed
 in long primer type or brevier
 type. The monthly services, table
 of contents, routine lists, nominal
 indexes, and old record indexes,
 &c. are set in small pica type
 similar to tabular work, but the
 ordinary tabular scale does not
 apply to such work, a special
 small pica rate being given for
 each. The printer would give more
 if piecework were the ordinary tabular
 rates for these series, indexes, &c.,
 is but put them upon time account,

In press

Small Pica. (OLD SCALE.)			
Lines.	Amount.	Pages.	Amount.
1	A. P.	2	RS. A. P.
2	2	3	1 2 0
3	4	4	1 11 0
4	6	5	2 4 0
5	8	6	2 13 0
6	10	7	3 6 0
7	1 0	8	3 15 0
8	1 2	9	4 8 0
9	1 4	10	5 1 0
10	1 6	11	5 10 0
11	1 8	12	6 3 0
12	1 10	13	6 12 0
13	2 0	14	7 5 0
14	2 2	15	7 14 0
15	2 4	16	8 7 0
16	2 6	17	9 0 0
17	2 8	18	9 9 0
18	2 10	19	10 2 0
19	2 11	20	10 11 0
20	3 1	21	11 4 0
21	3 3	22	11 13 0
22	3 5	23	12 6 0
23	3 7	24	12 15 0
24	3 9	25	13 8 0
25	3 11	26	14 1 0
26	4 1	27	14 10 0
27	4 3	28	15 3 0
28	4 5	29	15 12 0
29	4 7	30	16 5 0
30	4 9		16 14 0
31	4 11		
32	5 1		
33	5 3		
34	5 5		
35	5 7		
36	5 9		
37	5 11		
38	6 1		
39	6 3		
40	6 5		
41	6 7		
42	6 9		
43	6 11		
44	7 0		
45	7 2		
46	7 4		
47	7 6		
48	7 8		
49	7 10		
50	8 0		
51	8 2		
52	8 4		
53	8 6		
54	8 8		
55	8 10		
56	9 0		
57	9 2		
58	9 4		
59	9 6		
60	9 8		

Proposed scale.

Small Pica.			
Lines.	Amount.	Lines.	Amount.
1	A. P.	60	A. P.
2	2	61	9 10
3	4	62	10 0
4	6	63	10 2
5	8	64	10 4
6	10	65	10 6
7	1 0	66	10 8
8	1 2	67	10 10
9	1 4	68	11 0
10	1 6	69	11 2
11	1 8	70 =	11 4
12	1 10	1 page	11 6
13	2 0		
14	2 2		
15	2 4		
16	2 6		
17	2 8		
18	2 10		
19	2 11		
20	3 1		
21	3 3		
22	3 5		
23	3 7		
24	3 9		
25	3 11		
26	4 1		
27	4 3		
28	4 5		
29	4 7		
30	4 9		
31	4 11		
32	5 1		
33	5 3		
34	5 5		
35	5 7		
36	5 9		
37	5 11		
38	6 1		
39	6 3		
40	6 5		
41	6 7		
42	6 9		
43	6 11		
44	7 0		
45	7 2		
46	7 4		
47	7 6		
48	7 8		
49	7 10		
50	8 0		
51	8 2		
52	8 4		
53	8 6		
54	8 8		
55	8 10		
56	9 0		
57	9 2		
58	9 4		
59	9 6		
60	9 8		

or a reduced per page rate.
 The Superintendent proposes to do
 away with the 53 lines headed
 small pica rate at 9 annas,
 and to substitute a solid line
 pica rate uniform with present
 solid pica, &c. Rates. This rate
 being based on a page 90 lines
 long at 11 annas 6 pies per page.
 The change will save 5 pies per
 page owing to the different fraction
 in the cost of more lines, and
 it will remove the imaginary
 grievance complained of in the
 petition by making all the same
 cost as uniform to solid matter.
 As regards II of the summary
 of the petition, the Superintendent
 endeavoured to obtain from two
 of the petitioners what irregularities
 were going on, and what grievances
 they had. Other than those stated
 in the petition, which they refused
 to state. There is no serious loss
 in the irregularities. III of the
 summary, all compositors are
 paid by the line or better system
 and being equal to one line.
 The compositors get 2 annas per
 1,000 lines or better, or 2 annas
 per 500 lines, &c. But they are
 already paid by the line system
 except for piecework like job work
 to which it cannot apply. The
 piecework system was introduced
 in 1861 owing to the small outturn

When compositors were paid as permanent salary. The same two compositors were asked to show how the saving of Rs. 2000 monthly was to be effected, but they refused to state. The idea is evidently to abolish the three Superintendents. The Handbook of the Central Printing Office, Calcutta, shows that the em rate is used for all calculation, not an em rate.

17. IV of the Summary hardly needs a reply. The principle which has to be followed in all technical industries is the quantity and quality of the work done, and this is always borne in mind when making provisions.

18. The Superintendent has on a number of occasions informed dissatisfied compositors that the Government entered into no condition when engaging them, which limited its power to revise the existing rates of piece and permanent salaries, or to refrain from revising them during their services, that there was no condition compelling them to remain in Government service if dissatisfied, that outside compositors on fixed salaries were always glad to get into the Government Press to earn a higher wage on piecework, and that the piecework earnings

	Total since
B. Melder	22-11-11
S. Rethnam Pillai	20-3-11
M. Atharubaswami	24-8-11
G. Shanmugam	14-10-11
J. Rajagopal	19-7-11
N. Ramaswami	20-4-11
P. Rethnam	20-7-11
P. Cunniffan	10-9-11
F. Saravatham	9-6-11
D. Gregory	14-9-11

of the compositors since 1861 were always higher than, or as high as, the salaries given by private firms.

19. The Superintendent also submits that this petition is the work of a limited number of dissatisfied compositors, some of whom pressure on long service to force the younger men into signing this petition. The first seven petitioners named in the margin signed the petitions forwarded in 1888 and 1889. These petitioners, S. Rethnam Pillai, M. Atharubaswami, and D. Gregory have been discontinued servants of Government ever since the Superintendent has known them. He believes that the present discontent is limited to but a few compositors, and is solely due to the action of these three compositors. Their discontent is not confined to the rates paid, but they attempt to dictate what they should do and what they should not do, often causing a delay thereby.

20. In conclusion, the Superintendent submits that Government should treat the memorialists on the same terms that a commercial firm would treat them, and inform them that if they are dissatisfied with the rates paid of which are substantial

the same as when they enter in the prison they can leave the service; Government having no desire to retain discontented men.

21st Jan. February 1890 the compositor gave the Superintendent a petition; and in March having returned a written reply dealing with the several points raised. The following is the last paragraph to the reply:

In giving these detailed replies to the letter submitted, the Superintendent cannot refrain from remarking that the older piecework compositors in the press take the lead in discontent whenever there is a temporary falling off in work, and in making the younger men dissatisfied when they have no reason to be so; they are also at times disrespectful in speech and manner towards the foremen. They seem to think it is the duty of Government to find manuscripts for them to set up, and because they are pieceworkmen they are not amenable to control and supervision. The Superintendent trusts that a change for the better amongst some of the older piecework compositors will make itself apparent before long;

if not, it will be his unpleasant duty to put before the Chief Secretary to Government the names of those men whom he considers discontented and unsatisfactory servants of Government.

This had a salutary effect, and no further petitions were presented until July 1896.

R. Hill

Noted by Superintendent, 1890. The Chief Secretary to Government has been informed of the matter and has directed that the Superintendent should take steps to improve the position of the older piecework compositors. The Superintendent has been instructed to make a report on the matter to the Chief Secretary to Government. The Superintendent has been instructed to make a report on the matter to the Chief Secretary to Government. The Superintendent has been instructed to make a report on the matter to the Chief Secretary to Government.

2. I understand that the above information is true and correct.

Book dept.: This dept contains all the men who are employed in probation, etc. and statement made is given to most to back them. Average earnings \$4.14 11 men who are not proficient in statement \$4.14 11

Avenue pour les étudiants de la faculté de médecine

210. *Hesperis*

Jacobson 7 1 "

9 Kyzasagan 6 15 5

C Kungopant 5 9 2

r. rymalensis 6 1 1

P. Xavier 6 15 11

Shrubkados 10 12 1

R. Hansen 8 11

J. Hart. 9

R. Appolloni. 3 4 5

Chewa (volunteers) 2 5-0

11. Logans 5 14
 12. 0

1. a. *diversus* 4 3 :

Wolfgang	4	15
P. P. 1. 11		1

1. Karyotype	4	6
2. P-	3	12

at Bonasawing	2	13.
2 (Kul)	2	13.

Annahme: $\frac{2}{11}$

Average on solid matter. 6 6 11

उत्तर

Cur 1379, 14/2/1957 447

Public Department.

Note by the Chief Secretary

The current for disposal in this file is a memorial from a number of the compositors and piece workers in the Govt. Press complaining of the grievances and disadvantages which they are subject to while working at the Press and setting forth their grievances. The memorial which is somewhat confused and not easy to understand touches on the following matters:-

(1.) (Paras 1 and 4) The discretionary rates allowed for tabular matter. They complain that the Supt. goes on reducing the scale of rates, that the men are never consulted and that the rates are cut down week after week.

(2.) (Paras 2 & 3). They complain that the scale of rates drawn up in 1931 has been altered, the Supt. having deliberately framed another scale of rates and submitted the same to Govt. stating that it had the assent of the memorialists and artfully obtained its sanction.

(3.) (Para 6) They complain that they are underpaid for correction which they hold should be done by a separate department.

(4.) (Para 7) They complain that they

they sustain loss by the action of the Examining Dept.

(5.) (Para 8) They want a work table set up in the office.

(1.) (Para 10) They complain that they are kept waiting for night work and say that in this connection piece work should be done ^{with} away and hour work substituted.

2. In para 12 however they sum up their grievances as follows:--

(a) They ask for a commission of experts and non-official members of the Legislative Council to look into all the irregularities complained of..

(b) They ask that the em system which is followed in other Presidencies may be introduced into this Presy. also.

(c) They ask that promotions may be given to compositors according to their seniority in service.

(d) They ask that the Supt. be required to produce the scale of rates framed by him subsequent to that framed by the last Commission.

3. Taking the complaints in the order of the memorial, complaint No. 1 is entirely unfounded. It is true that the valuation of tabular matter is in some measure discretionary but this is inevitable and due to the nature of the work. The system followed in the Govt. Press is that largely

adopted

adopted in printing offices throughout India and in the hands of skilled and technical printers works well. In such technical matters Govt. cannot interfere with the qualified officers whom it has imported to control the Press and the matter ^{hands} ~~will~~ be left in their hands.

4. As to the second complaint this also is entirely unfounded. There has been no change in the rate which has been two annas for 1000 ^{of plain matter} ens since the Commission and the rate remains the same still.

5. Their third complaint cannot be entertained. To allow correction to be done by a separate department would obviously be a premium on careless and bad work. The rates as fixed by the Commission were fixed for correct work. The rule of the Press is that except in special instances settled before hand, author's corrections are valued and paid for.

6. As to the fourth complaint it is likely that the Examining Dept. is capable of improvement. If the Examining Dept. is not efficient the Supt. should remove without hesitation any one not fit for the work. His attention ^{He?} ~~will~~ be called to the matter on which he should report.

7. As to their fifth complaint the memorialists themselves had no definite idea as to what they wanted, but their meaning seems to have been to assert that there was a delay or improper

[He is the commission
the rates for]

Distribution of Copy
dealing in the . I could not find that there was any good ground to suppose that there was anything objectionable occurring in regard to this matter.

8. As to their sixth complaint it seems plain that the same reason which rendered expedient the change from the time work system to the piece work system precludes the proposal to treat night work on the hour system.

9. As to the requests contained in the last paragraph of the memorial the request for the appointment of a Commission is quite unnecessary and should not be acceded to.

10. The request that em system followed in other Presidencies may be introduced here also is meaningless in its present form since two ems are equal to one em universally. What really the memorialists seem to have intended to convey ^{a request} was that tabular matter and solid matter should be valued in exactly the same manner. The request is on its face is obviously absurd and unjust ^{to cost very largely increase} and would ^{probably quadruple} the cost of tabular matter to the great benefit of the petitioners.

~~It is not important~~
It seems hardly necessary that promotion should be given to the compositors according to seniority in service. In the first place Piece workers have no service and the object of the system is to pay each man what he earns by his skill. In such a system each

man's

and work at once then
and permission follows in
it.

I entirely agree with
the C.B.

I must add that the
memorial is in certain
passages distinctly
misleading in tone
(the places marked with
blue pencil) more
especially towards the
Supt. of the Press.

I think it wd be well if the
C.B. were to point out
to the memorialists that
subordination must be
insisted on and that
the others of the Supt.
who possesses the confidence
of Govt must be implicitly
obeyed. M.A. 11.1.99.

man's promotion is in his own hands.

12. In regard to the request that the Supt. be called upon to produce the scale of rates framed by him subsequent to that framed by the last Commission, attention is requested to the linked file placed below. G.O. R. no 2 P. 18-
date 2. Jan. 1899.

In conclusion it is only necessary to add that the Chief Secy. has twice visited the Press in connection with this complaint, has gone carefully into the working of the matters complained of, at the Press itself and in communication with the Supt. and has gone through their memorial with the more intelligent of the piece work compositors who have signed it and who seemed to be the prime spirits in its submission and has endeavoured to understand what they meant to convey and what in effect were their grievances, if any.

6.7.9.

Official

Tell the memos in a whole & part
it in the G.O. and incidentally in
the G.O. this is his remarks.

11.1.99

CS (from orders)

C. No. 1379 From the *Composers & Printers*, No. —, dated 30.3.1897. (A)
Govt. Gazette Press
" 1412 " *P. S. Secy to H.B. the Govt.*, " —, " 7.4.1897. (A)
" 1957 " *Supr. Govt. Press*, " 2225, " 22.5.1897. (A)
note by the Chief Secretary to Govt. dated 6.1.99 (A)
" " " " " 189

Order No. 72 of 18-1-88
P.S.

H.B. the Govt. in Council entirely agrees with the views expressed by the Chief Secretary in his note above recorded.

2. The Supr. Govt. Press will report on the matter referred to in para 6 of the Chief Secretary's note.

3. The Govt. observes that the memorial is in certain passages distinctly insubordinate in tone, more especially towards the Supr. Govt.

Some
C. 17.1.99

pointed out to the
 memorialists that
 subordination must
 be insisted on, and
 that the orders of
 the Supt. who possesses
 the confidence of Govt. & who
 must be implicitly
 obeyed
 (from abstract of 12.1.99)

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