M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1481 Press
~~Mis.~~

397-398

Dated 31-8- 1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue :—

Submitting, with their observations, a letter from the Collector of North Arcot, forwarding a Memorandum from his Deputy Narasima Puntalu, reporting the result of his investigation into certain cases of fraud committed in the Yaumia Department of the District. (Here enter 7th August 1860, No. 3,638.)

ORDER THEREON, 31st August 1860, No. 1,481.

1. With these Proceedings, the Board of Revenue submit the report of the Acting Collector of North Arcot on the Yaumia frauds lately detected in that District.

2. Ten persons, including the Head of the Yaumia Department (Sadr Yaumia) in the Collector's Office, and the Kázi of Arcot, were committed for trial before the Sessions Court on the charge of having fraudulently obtained the arrears standing in the names of two Gosha women who had been long dead. They were all convicted by that Court; but the sentence was set aside by the Court of Foujdári Adálat, on the ground that the evidence upon which they were convicted was insufficient without positive proof of the death of the women who were personated.

The Deputy Collector appears from his Report (paragraph 11) to have endeavored to furnish proof of the death of the women referred to. But direct and positive proof would in the nature of things, be all but an impossibility. There appears, however, no reasonable ground for doubt as to the truth of the charge; the entire omission of the accused to offer any evidence of the women being alive, constitutes in itself a strong presumption against them.

3. The Government agree to the recommendations made by the Board in paragraphs 9, 12, 14, and 15, for the discontinuance of the pensions of the persons there referred to, and they accordingly resolve to declare these allowances forfeited. The Government see no necessity for any preliminary notice in the case of the female pensioners referred to in paragraph 14, and their pensions will be stopped at once from the date of the last payment.

4. The Government further resolve, with reference to paragraph 10, to pronounce Mahomed Habíbulla late Sadr Yaumia in the Collector's Office, inadmissible either to a pension or to future employment under Government; and Mahomed Sabactulla Khan Kaji of Arcot also unfit for future employment. They agree with the Board that the pay of these two persons up to the date of suspension, cannot legally be withheld.

5. In accordance with the recommendation in paragraph 18, the Government sanction the disbursement to Mrs. Gomes of Rupees (119) One hundred and nineteen, as a remuneration for the services rendered by her in connection with the inquiries.

6. There is one case mentioned in the Deputy Collector's Report, wherein it is recommended that payment of the Yaumia should be continued, but in which it seems to the Government it ought to be stopped. This is the case of Suram Bí in paragraph 23. The female produced to represent this person was 5 feet 1 inch in height, while the Register gave only 4 feet 6 inches. Adopting Mrs. Gomes' supposition, the Deputy Collector thinks she may have grown; but that a woman should grow seven inches after the age of 24 years is incredible. It is possible that the Register was in error to that extent; but very good reason should be shown for believing this, and pending the production of such evidence the Government direct that the allowance be stopped. It is observed that it amounts to Rupees 177 a year; enough to constitute a strong temptation to fraud. Six months will be allowed for the production of proof; if it is not produced within that time, the pension will be finally confiscated.

7. The Board will obtain Nominal Rolls of the Civil and Military pensioners whose allowances are to be discontinued under this Order, and will forward them to the Civil Auditor and Military Auditor General respectively, for their information and guidance.

8. The Deputy Collector Narasima Puntalu appears to have shown much both of intelligence and of zeal in this enquiry, and the Government resolve to mark their sense of the value of his exertions, by promoting him from the fourth to the third class of Deputy Collectors.

9. Adverting to the Board's observations in paragraphs 4 and 16 of their Proceedings, the Government remark that such frauds as those now in question must be expected to occur under the rules which exempt certain classes of pensioners from public muster before a Government Officer. After full consideration it has been resolved to retain those rules; but every possible exertion should be made to trace out cases of abuse. With this view, the Government now direct that all the Gosha pensioners in the District be examined by a trustworthy female; and compared with their Registers. And they grant authority for the employment of Mrs. Gomes or any other suitable person on this duty, under the Collector's orders, at the same rate of remuneration as now approved in the case of Mrs. Gomes.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" Accountant General.
" Civil Auditor.
" Military Auditor General.

Exd. Wm. Thomas.

IN CON. 27TH JULY 1860, A after No. 3,650.

From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Collector of NORTH ARCOT,
dated Chittoor, 21st July 1860, No. 52.

I had the honor on the 13th December last to report to Government that there were strong grounds for believing that grave and systematic frauds had been practised in the yeomia department of my office in connection with the disbursement of the arrears of pensions standing in the names of certain gosha females, which had accumulated under the restrictive orders of the 6th April 1852, No. 314, but were subsequently paid under the instructions of Government, dated 28th January 1859.

2. In that letter, and the memorandum which accompanied it, I explained what steps were being taken by my Deputy Narasimha Pantulu (to whom the enquiry had been entrusted) to unravel the plot and bring the principal conspirators to justice, Narasimha Pantulu completed this difficulty and delicate task with a vigour, ability, and tact which deserve my highest commendation, and has at my request given in the enclosed memorandum an account of his proceedings and the result of the enquiry.

3. The case was committed to the Session Court on two separate charges. In the 1st, " fraud and misdemeanour," the parties named in the margin were defendants; in the 2nd, " fraud extensive," the following were placed on their trial.

1. Mohomed Hussen.
2. Syed Sha Moyenudin Hussen.
3. Ashakalli, Gumasta of the Arcot Kazi.
4. Kaja Hussen.
5. Mahomed Habibulla.
6. Mohomed Sibactulla Khan Kazi of Arcot.

1. Abdul Kader Keelanee.
2. Davood Khan.
3. Mahomed Alli.
4. Ashaki Alli, Goomasta of the Arcot Kazi.
5. Mahomed Habibulla Yeomia Sadr.
6. Mahomed Sibactulla Khan Kazi of Arcot.
7. Syed Hameed, Yeomiadar.

4. On the 1st charge the 2nd and 3rd defendants were acquitted, and 1st and 4th held to heavy security, on the 2nd and principal count, the Sessions Judge found all the prisoners guilty; and recommended them to be sentenced, each to seven years imprisonment with hard labour in irons and to pay a fine of Rupees 793-14-1. There would probably have been a conviction in the local courts, in the 1st as well as the 2nd case, had not the principal witness, so palpably perjured herself that she has since been tried on the charge and sentenced to four years imprisonment. The recommendation of the local court in the 2nd and principal case was, however, set aside by the Judges of the Foujdari Udalut Court on the grounds that the conviction of the prisoners could not be maintained in the absence of distinct proof of the death of the gosha yeomiadars whose arrears of pension had been fraudulently drawn and misapplied. In speaking of the evidence in this case the Court of Foujdari Udalut remark "*that however it might justify the Government in withdrawing the pensions* it is insufficient to fix a criminal liability"; Again, in estimating the degree of culpability attaching to the Kazi, the same Court observe " that, the case " failed for legal evidence, and there is ample ground on the record for not allowing the Kazi to " resume his office. The letters, &c., cast very grave suspicion on his conduct in this matter." The case has thus broken down owing to a defect in the legal evidence, which seems almost inseparable from prosecutions of this nature.

5. To prove the death of the gosha females, the fraudulent misappropriation of whose pension arrears is the point at issue, it would have become necessary to take criminal proceedings against the parties who were personating them, and that could not have been done without breaking through the gosha privilege under which these women claim to be, a course which is deprecated in the order of Government* on my former letter. But if in the case for the prosecution this point has not been, nor in fact could be made good, neither on the part of the defence has there been any attempt to rebut the allegation by the

* 3rd January 1860, No. 2.

production of the females whose existence has been questioned, and a perusal of the evidence leaves on the mind a stronger presumption then ever that the original pensioners are long since dead.

6. Although to my great regret a criminal conviction has not been obtained in this all-important case, still I cannot believe that with the mass of evidence on record, Government will consent to pay up arrears and continue pensions to a set of men of whose guilt there can, morally viewed, be no question.

7. Mahomed Habibulla, late Sadr yeomia in my office, has no pension, and has fallen out of place in the recent reconstitution of establishment. It may, therefore, be sufficient in his case to declare him inadmissible to pension and future employment, and to withhold payment of all arrears of salary now due. The Kazi of Arcot has been already dismissed by the Court, and should forfeit all arrears of salary. The other names and designations as per accompanying list* should lose their pensions and arrears, and be declared inadmissible hereafter as agents and vakils on behalf of pensioners.

* No. 2.

8. I beg likewise to recommend for the reasons given in my Deputy's memorandum that the pensions of the gosha yeomiadars, names and Nos. as per list* appended, be discontinued, and that any arrears due to them be carried to the credit of Government. The services of Mrs. Gomes, the East Indian woman alluded to in paragraphs 9 and 24 of my Deputy's memorandum, have been most valuable throughout this enquiry, and the intelligent and lucid manner in which she gave her evidence has been favorably noticed in the proceedings of the local Court. I venture, therefore, to express my hope that Government will be pleased to sanction the payment to her of Rupees 118-11-1, which is in my opinion moderate remuneration for all the trouble and mental anxiety she has undergone.

* No. 1.

ENC. 1.

MEMORANDUM.

Agreeably to the instructions contained in the Order of Government, dated 3rd January 1860, No. 2, I now record the esult of all my enquries in certain cases of fraud committed in the yeomia department at Arcot.

2. Two of the female yeomiadars, called Sultan Sahiba and Lateefa Bee, No. 361, having been reported to me to be residing in the house of one Madar Saheb at Ranipet, I proceeded thither on the morning of the 10th January 1860, and having first of all made the necessary enquiries regarding the existence of the said females, I was informed by the katwal of the town of Ranipet, and some other respectable inhabitants of the place that there were no females bearing the names in question in the house referred to.

3. I then sent for the alleged heirs* of the two women, who stated before me that the said women were then living in the house in question ; and that the money previously drawn from the Treasury was on their account only. Having, therefore, called upon them to produce the said females under a curtain in the usual mode, they delayed doing so for about an hour under certain false pretences, the object of which was, as I understand, to satisfy and persuade two other women in the house to personate the said Sultan Sahiba and Lateefa Bee.

* Ahmedkhan and Shamshudur.

4. I managed at last with the greatest difficulty to make them produce two old women, who on being asked by me, gave out their names as the pensioners refeired to, but ran behind before I could ask them a second question.

5. On this, two other women after some delay were produced, who also gave out the same names as before, but when asked by me they were unable to mention the names of their mother-in-law and other nearest relatives. I then sent for some Hindu women residing in the neighbourhood, who immediately after seeing the two females, burst out alaughing, thereby showing that they discovered the trick.

6. It was, however, very difficult for me to ascertain the truth, as they drew back to speak out what they knew for fear of future disputes with the men.

7. It happening in short that the katwal reported to me the names of two Moor women* who had dealings with the inmates of the said house, and who live in the front street, I sent for them, and having administered solemn affirmation deputed them to examine the females of whose existence there was a question. They stated, that the females were not the real pensioners but others, and that the real pensioners had died some 20 or 30 years back ; that their pension was then enjoyed fraudulently by their daughters, who also died some 5 or 6 years since.

* Hassain Bee and Kateeja Bee.

8. Having then ascertained the description of the said women with reference to the muster roll I had in hand, I found vast difference, and was therefore inclined to sift the matter more satisfactorily.

9. Having accordingly tried my best to obtain the assistance of a respectable and well-educated East Indian, Mrs. Gomes, to whom I promised to pay two Rupees a day for the number of days she may be employed by me besides the charges of carriage, &c.

10. The latter course I was compelled to follow in consequence of the want of sufficient faith in the evidence of common native women, and as I thought a more satisfactory information could be obtained by the employment of an able and educated women. Mrs. Gomes willingly rendered me all the expected assistance in her power in the examinatiom of the several female pensioners in Arcot.

11. In the case of Sultan Sahiba and Lateefa Bee, above referred to, it is shown by the muster roll that their colour was dark, whereas the present two women were found to be brown. It is possible that a man by getting old might get more dark than he was, but in this case in particular the women seemed to be *brown*. Again no warts on their faces were to be seen, as laid down in the muster roll ; one of the women named Sultan Sahiba had also pock marks on the face and most on the nose, which does not appear by the muster roll to be the case. In the height there is a difference of one inch in one woman*. Thus the description being at variance with the muster roll, and adverting to the circumstances above referred to, I was satisfied that they were not real pensioners. In addition to this, Mr. Gomes stated upon oath before me that as she was deputed to examine the said women they fell upon her feet and requested her to protect them. The death of the orginal pensioners having occurred a long time back, it was not possible to discover satisfactorily the time of their death ; but with reference to the law of evidence framed by Mr. Norton, I obtained all the procurable evidence to show that the names or existence of the said pensioners have not been heard of during the last 7 years, and with other necessary proofs on record I forwarded to the sub-Criminal Court the vakeels, attesting witnesses, Kazi of Arcot, and the yeomia Sadr, &c., as prisoners, together with the letters, &c., discovered in the possession of the said Kazi, which proved themselves to be of a conspirating character.

* Lateefa bee.

12. The Sub-Criminal Judge found the prisoners guilty, and forwarded them to the Session Court, who also convicted them and recommended that a sentence of 7 years' imprisonment with hard labour in irons with considerable fines should be passed upon the prisoners ; but on the ground that there is no evidence to prove the actual date of the death of the pensioners, the Court of the Foujdari Udalut ordered their release on the criminal charge, but left to the option of the Government whether to continue or otherwise the disbursement of the said pensions.

13. The death of the pensioners having occurred some several years back, it is, as generally known, a difficult point now to be proved. In the Proceedings of the Foujdari Udalut dated 11th July 1860, they admit the existence of a grave suspicion on the prisoners.

14. Lately a petition to the Board from the said Sultan Sahiba and Lateefa Bee having been referred to me for investigation, I tried my best to procure their attendance either in person or by Vakeel, but met with no success as they were not the real parties.

	Amount per annum.		
	RS.	A.	P.
* No. 361.....	33	3	0
† „ 361.....	33	3	0

15. Under these circumstances, I beg to recommend that the Yeomiah in the names of the said Sultan Sahiba* and Lateefa Bee†, be finally discontinued.

16. A pensioner, Masahba Beebee, No. 629, who has been aiding the prisoners, has been convicted of the crime of perjury in having given two different statements on oath, in the case of fraud, and sentenced by th Court of Sessions to four years' imprisonment. It is, therefore unnecessary that I should give any further details of her case, but beg to recommend that her pension* also may be discontinued as any indulgence by Government in the case of a convicted party is not desirable.

Name.	Amount per annum. RS.	A.	P.
Masahba Beebee.			
* No. 629.....	70	12	9

17. A pensioner Rahymon Bee, No. 567, I caused to be examined by means of Mrs. Gomes, who stated on oath on the spot that her description does not correspond with that shown by the muster roll, that her colour is not exactly bamboo or yellow as entered in the roll, but little dark, and that no scars or other marks on the eye brows are apparent, and that there are two burns above the eye brows contrary to the roll. Her height is 3½ inches more than that shown by the roll. It is further asserted that she is now apparently of the age of about 25 or 30 years. Whereas in the roll prepared in 1849, she was entered as being then aged 47 years.

Name.	No.	Amount per annum. RS.	A.	P.
* Ryhimon Bee.	567.	44	4	0

18. For these important variations I beg to recommend that her pension* also may be discontinued.

19. Pensioner Katteeja Bee, No. 85, was examined, and Mrs. Gomes states on oath that her description does not correspond with that shown by the roll. She was found to be brown and not dark. No pock marks as entered in the roll. The height is 1¾ inches above the roll. In addition to such doubts in the description of the present woman, I found a memorandum drawn out by Vakeel Poondy Abdul Kader† in his own hand writing, wherein she was entered as *being dead*, which led me to believe that her existence is certainly incredible. I beg, therefore, to recommend that her pension‡ may be discontinued.

† Chief man and first prisoner.

Name.	No.	Amount per annum. RS.	A.	P.
‡ Kateeja Bee	85	118	0	0

20. Pensioner Aminsaheba, No. 179, was reported by the Monigar and Karnum of Tachpoor near Arcot to have gone to Pallikonda some 9 or 10 years back. The Tahsildar of that place having been called upon, took and forwarded the depositions of her nearest relatives wherein they stated that she had died about 10 years ago, and that she was buried behind the house of one Shumsudin at Tachpoor. This statement was, however, afterwards denied by them before me, but I have no doubt that this denial was caused by the efforts of the conspirators in the matter. They say that they were severely maltreated by the Tahsildar to induce them to give the aforementioned statements, but, in fact, there are no marks whatever of any violence on their persons, and they made no complaint to me while at large until on my summons they appeared before me on the 14th January 1860, since their depositions before the Tahsildar on the 24th December 1859. I also obtained statements from her alledged relatives residing at Salem and Madras but none of them were able to swear to her existence. Her Vakeel having, however, showed me a house as if she was living in, I deputed for examination Mrs. Gomes, who gives her description as follows:—

Colour clearly brown, but not black as the muster roll shows; height five feet and half inch, and not four feet and seven inches according to the muster roll; face not plain but contains black marks on the left cheek. I further beg to state in addition to the above circumstances that the muster roll was prepared in October 1849 and that her age was *then* 86 years. If she is really alive, she could not have grown up 5½ inches more than the roll, but must necessarily have been bent down. In the house of Poondy Abdul Kader, through whose instrumentality these frauds were committed, I found a letter written in the own hand writing of Sudr Yeomia, bearing date the 5th Moharum of Hijiril 276 (1859), in which he states that "he is sorry that the Vakeel did "not settle the disputes existing between her heirs and that if it comes to light it will cause great "evil and destroy the confidence also on other similar cases."

Amount per annum. RS.	A.	P.
* Aminsaheba, No. 179..... 88	8	0

21. Under these circumstances, I have not the least doubt that the real pensioner is not now in existence, and beg therefore to recommend that her pension* may be discontinued also.

5

To make it brief I give as follows, the description of the other female pensioners on one side, an extract of the muster roll being given opposite thereto.

	According to the Muster Roll.	*According to the state now found.*
Sahabooni Saheba...,. No. 223. Amount per annum. R. 22 A. 2 P. 0	Bamboo colour, no marks, plain face, height 4 feet and 11 inches.	Brown colour, she is cripple and unable to walk or to stand, plain face, height 4 feet and 7 inches. Mrs. Gomes states that there is great difference in the colour and that she cannot think this case to be correct.
Padsha Saheba..... No. 223. Amount per annum. R. 22 A. 2 P. 0	Colour fair, no marks, plain face, height 4 feet and 4 inches.	Colour bamboo, not fair, a wart on the chin, height 5 feet and 4 inches, she appears to be very old and cripple. Mrs. Gomes states this case is not correct.
Habeeb Saheba..... No. 442. Amount per annum. R. 88 A. 7 P. 0	Bamboo colour, a black speck near the left eye, height 5 feet.	Bamboo colour, and a black speck near the left eye, height 5 feet and 4 inches. Mrs. Gomes states she suspects this case from the size being in excess of what was given in the muster roll although the colour and marks correspond, as she after attaining the age of 70 years (before 1849), could not have grown up any more.
Lateefa Bee..... No. 377. Amount per annum. R. 88 A. 8 P. 0	Is said to have since died about 2½ months back. This is of course doubtful. The Yeomiah should be stopped.	
Bee Saheba Beebee alias Beebejan, No.....554. Amount per annum. R. 23 A. 4 P. 4	Bamboo colour, plain face, height 4 feet and 11 inches.	Little darker than bamboo, face not exactly plain. There are some black marks, but in some instances they often occur and go. Height is 5 feet and 1½ inches. Mrs. Gomes states that this is not a true case.
Khairun Nisa..... No. 4 Amount per annum. R. 243 A. 6 P. 0	The first woman died, and there is vast difference in the description in the second woman as confirmed by Mrs. Gomes. The particulars were given in my previous report. On the same grounds I beg to recommend that their pensions may be stopped.	
Mohidin Bee..... No. 416 Amount per annum. R. 88 A. 8 P. 0		
Kanamshaw..... No. 452 Amount per annum. R. 35 A. 6 P. 4	Black colour. No marks, plain face, height four feet and three inches.	Brown colour. Height four feet and 10 inches. A scar on the nose. Face not plain as the muster roll shows, and Mrs. Gomes states this case to be rather suspicious.
Maharoon Nisa..... No. 452 Amount per annum. R. 35 A. 6 P. 4	Bamboo colour, no marks, plain face, height 4 feet and 6 inches.	Colour bamboo. A mole on the left cheek just as big as a double anna. Height 4 feet and 10 inches. Mrs. Gomes gives to this the above opinion.

	According to the Muster Roll.	*According to the state now found.*
Shumshoobi..... No. 603 Amount per annum. R. A. P. 21 0 0	Bamboo colour. 2 pock marks near the left eye, 2 pock marks and a wart near the right eye and 2 warts on the forehead. Height 4 feet and 8 inches. Aged 25 years in 1849.	Brown colour. Not at all bamboo, 1 pock mark near the left eye. 2 pock marks on the right cheek. No warts at all. Height 4 feet and 9 inches. She now appears to be younger than 20 years.
Hussain Beebee... No. 488 nount per annum. R. A. P. 27 10 6	Bamboo colour, a scar on the corner of the left eye. Aged 25 years up to 1849. Height 4 feet and 11 inches.	Both the colour and scar correspond. The height is 5 feet and 2 inches and she is stated apparently to be now of the age of 19 or 20 years. Both of the latter circumstances being very doubtful, she is also entered under this head, and her pension should be stopped.
Amin Bee..... No. 488 Amount per annum. R. A. P. 27 10 6	Bamboo colour, no marks, plain face. Height 4 feet and 11 inches, aged 23 years up to 1849.	Yellow colour. Plain face, no marks, height 5 feet and 2¾ inches. This woman is stated to be apparently now of the age of 20 or 21 years. It being therefore doubtful, she is entered under this head.
Rajam Beebee and Hussain Beebee..... No. 639 Amount per annum. R. A. P. 140 2 0	These were stated to have gone to Madras both the times I went. I gave an account of these women in my former memorandum. I am since informed that these women are not at all in existence and that it is only pretended as if they had gone elsewhere in order to evade examination. I was also unable to ascertain the place where they reside at Madras. I beg therefore to recommend the discontinuance of their Yeomia until a careful examination be eventually made.	
Sha Zadi Begam..... No 21 Amount per annum. R. A. P. 100 0 0	Is said to be at Madras in Royapetta. No examination took place. I did not hear any thing to cause suspicion in this case, but I recommend her Yeomia to be discontinued until a careful examination be eventually made.	
Sultan Shaw..... No. 452 Amount per annum. R. A. P. 35 6 4	Is said to have gone to Hydrabad. I hear this to be a suspicious case and beg to recommend as above.	
Sultan Sahiba..... No. 223 Amount per annum. R. A. P. 22 2 0	Is said to have gone to Pandorpottoor, I recommend as above.	

22. I beg also to state that in the house of Poondy Abdul Kader, I found 18 certificates which ought to have only remained with the Pensioners themselves, if they were really surviving, and it appeared to me that he was keeping them all with him and producing them for the deceased parties when he had occasion to draw money for them. The pension of the individuals above referred to having been recommended to be discontinued, I consider it fair and judicious to discontinue also the pensions of their Vakeels and the witnesses who attested the life certificates, as it is chiefly by their means that such glaring frauds have been allowed to be committed. Their names and amount of pension, &c., are given as follows.

No.	Names.	Vakeels.	Amount. RS. A. P.
568,	Yeomiadar	Poondy Abdul Kadar.	88 8 0
551,	Do.	Goolam Mahomed....	354 0 0
554,	Do.	Syed Mahomed Ali....	23 4 4
36,390,	Military pensioner	Syed Kamal.	Unknown
30,083,	Do.	Mahomed Peer.	63 0 0
415,	Do.	Abdulla Kan.	Unknown
560,	Yeomiadar	Syed Kadeyodeen...	221 4 0
29,374,	Military pensioner	Syed Homeed.	63 0 0
			813 0 4

Witnesses who attested the Life Certificates.

No.	Names.	Amount. RS. A. P.
497	Yeomiadar Syed Homed.	120 0 0
516	Do. Syed Kaja Hussain.....	88 8 0
65	Military pensioner Esoof Kan.....	63 0 0
496	Yeomiadar Hafiz Syed Saduck Hoossainee...	90 0 0
584	Yeomiadar Mohomed Adum....	42 0 0
29,869	Military pensioner Gulam Hussain.....	63 0 0
498	Yeomiadar Syed Ali...	36 0 0
34,845	Military pensioner Sharufudin.....	48 0 0
25,459,	Military Pensioner Syed Bauker.....	63 0 3
506,	Do. do. Davood Kan.....	126 0 0
187,	Do. do. Abdul Nabee.....	63 0 0
89,	Do. do. Shaik Hamed...	63 0 0
22,660,	Do. do. Syed Ali.....	63 0 0
36,661,	Do. do. Syed Hussain	63 0 0
560,	Yeomiadar Syed Badeyodeen.....	221 4 0
497,	Do. Meer Edayet Hussain...	120 0 0
546,	Do. Syed Mohodeen.	36 0 0
338,	Military Pensioner Emamudin...	63 0 0
6,449,	Do. do. Mahomed Hussain	63 0 0
496,	Yeomiadar Syed Shah Mohenudin Hussain.....	67 8 0
584,	Do. Cauza Hoossain.....	42 0 0
550,	Do. Syed Moortiza.....	118 0 0
521,	Yeomiadar Mahomed Ali.....	221 4 0
12,	Poonji Dahayet Enamdar Abbu Saib..	35 0 0
567,	Yeomiadar Bauker Hussain.....	88 8 0
		Total Rs. 2,067 0 0

23. The pension of the two following women, I beg to recommend to be continued as my enquiry did not prove anything against their existence :—

Suram Bee..... No. 571 Amount per annum. R. A. P. 177 0 0	The colour and marks corresponded with the muster roll, but the height is 5 feet and 1 inch instead of 4 feet and 6 inches. She was aged 24 years in 1849, Mrs. Gomes states she may have since grown up and that she cannot suspect this case at all. For these circumstances, I recommend her Yeomia to be continued for life.
Kairum Sahiba..... No. 252 Amount per annum, R. A. P. 7 6 10	This case is perfectly correct according to the muster roll. There is still another wart in addition to the other marks apparent by the roll. This case being very satisfactory in all respects, her Yeomia I recommend to be continued for life.

	Days.	R.	A.	P.
* From 11th to 16th January 1860.	6			
Again on the 28th do. ,,	1			
Again from 1st March to 10th April 1860.	41	96	0	0
	48			
Cart hire and Railway charges, &c.....		22	11	1
Total... R.		118	11	1
Family Pensioners.....		1,409	0	1
Vakeels.....		813	0	4
Witnesses for life certificates.....		2,067	0	0
		4,289	0	5

24. The statement* in the margin shows the amount paid by me to Mrs. Gomes for the number of days she was employed by me as stated in paragraph 9 of this memorandum. I request that the sanction of Government may be obtained for the disbursement of the said amount.

25. In conclusion, I beg to point out that the amount of pension now proposed to be discontinued is Rupees 4,224-14-5* a year.

(Signed) M. NARASIMA PUNTULU,
Deputy Magistrate.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
Acting Collector.

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ENC. 2.

ABSTRACT.—List of female Yeomiahdars who are reported to be dead, and whose pensions should be discontinued.

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ENC. 3.

ABSTRACT.—List of pensioners who acted as Vakils or attested the Life Certificates of Gosha female Yeomiahdars who are reported to be dead.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

No. 3,638.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 7th August 1860.

Read letter from the Acting Collector of North Arcot addressed to the Chief Secretary to Government dated 21st July 1860, No. 52, and transferred to the Board of Revenue under date 27th idem.

(In Cons., 27th July 1860, A No. 3,650.)

Resolved that the above letter be submitted to Government.

2. With the above letter the Acting Collector of North Arcot forwards a Memorandum from his Deputy, Narasima Puntaloo, reporting the result of an investigation made by him into certain cases of fraud committed in the Yeomiah Department of the District.

In Cons., 22nd April 1852, No. 833.

In Cons., 28th Dec. 1858, No. 4,401.

3. It appears that by the operation of the Order of Government dated 6th April 1852, No. 314, the payment of several Yeomiah allowances due to Goshah women was suspended. This caused an accumulation of arrears for the disposal of which Government eventually issued final Orders dated 30th September 1858, Revenue Department, No. 1,329.

4. These arrears were, as the inquiry shows, in many instances fraudulently misappropriated by parties who by false evidence, and by the personation of deceased Yeomiahdars, got the money into their own hands.

1. Mahommed Hussain.
2. Syed Sha Moyadeen Hussain.
3. Abdhool Kader Keelanee (Yeomiahdar).
4. Davood Khan (Military Pensioner).
5. Mahommed Alli (Yeomiahdar).
6. Ashak Alli (Gomastah of Arcot Cazee).
7. Mahommed Habibulla (Yeomiahdar).
8. Mahommed Sabuctoolla Khan (Cazee of Arcot).
9. Syed Hamed (Yeomiahdar).
10. Kaja Hussein (Yeomiahdar).

(Sadan Jamma) 5. The principal case brought to light was that of the fraudulent acquisition, by the persons named in the margin, of the arrears standing in the names of Sultan Sahiba and Lateefa Bee. This they accomplished by false evidence and gross imposition.

6. They were all committed for trial before the Sessions Court at Chittoor, and Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 upon conviction were recommended by the Judge to be severally sentenced to seven years' imprisonment in irons, and to pay fines amounting in the aggregate to Rupees 793-14-1.

7. This recommendation was, however, set aside by the Judges of the Foujdary Court on the ground that the evidence upon which they were convicted was insufficient without positive proof of the death of the women who were personated.

8. This, it is hardly necessary to remark, could not, under the circumstances of the case, be obtained.

9. The Board are of opinion that notwithstanding the release of the parties in question, there are ample grounds for Government to deprive them of their pensions, and they, therefore, recommend that, as proposed by the Acting Collector, the Government should declare these allowances forfeited.

10. In regard to Mahommed Habibulla, who lately held the situation of Sudr Yeomiah in the Collector's Office, the Board think it will be, as the Acting Collector remarks, sufficient for Government to pronounce him inadmissible either to a pension or to future employment; but the Board cannot advise that his pay should be withheld for a period prior to the date on which he was suspended from his Office. The Cazee of Arcot has been already dismissed by the Court, and the Board are of opinion that he should also be declared unfit for future employment. They however consider him entitled to his pay up to the date on which he was suspended for the inquiry to be held into his conduct.

11. During the course of the trial before the Court at Chittoor, one of the witnesses by name Misahba Bee (a Yeomiahdar) committed perjury for which she was subsequently sentenced to four years' imprisonment.

12. The Board think that her pension should certainly be resumed from the date of payment made to her.

13. The Acting Collector has not entered into the particulars of the other cases of fr but has submitted two lists, the first containing the names of 23 female Yeom dars who are supposed on good grounds to be dead, but whose pensions have fraudulently drawn; and the second containing the names of 33 pensioners have either acted as Vakils or attested the Life Certificates of Gosha women now ascertaine have been at the time dead.

Nos. 1 and 2.

14. As regards the former, the Board think that Government may justly withhold payment of their pensions, and they beg to suggest that a proclamation should be issued call upon all who may be alive to appear and prove their identity within a period of three months, the close of which their pensions should be declared forfeited if a right to them is not establish

15. In respect of the persons named in the second list the Board see no ground for lenien but on the contrary think that the penalty prescribed for such a grave offence as that of wh they have been guilty in paragraph 4 of the Yeom Rules of 18th January 1841, and reiterated in the Extr from the Minutes of Consultation dated 6th April 1852, N 314, should be fully enforced by the forfeiture of th pensions from the date of last payment.

Circular Order Book, 1st Vol., page 294.

In Cons., 22nd April 1852, No. 833.

16. From the papers before them the Board can only come to the conclusion that organized system of fraud of the gravest nature has been for a long time in existence in Nor Arcot, carried on mainly, they apprehend, by parties connected with the Yeomiah Department the Collector's Office.

17. The Board consider it unfortunate that the conviction of the Sessions Judge in t present case fell to the ground, but they think that the infliction of this punishment now recon mended will have the effect of deterring others from joining in such fraudulent proceedings f the future.

18. The Board agree with Mr. Robinson in the opinion he has expressed in the last p graph of his letter regarding the services rendered by Mrs. Gomes during the inquiry into th cases of fraud, and have no hesitation to support his recommendation that the Government b pleased to order the disbursement to her of Rupees 118-11-1.

(A true Extract.)

Secretary.

To J. D. Bourdillon, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to J. D. Robinson, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot.

Exd. J. Wright.

Revenue 1860 Department
(4) Bds: of Rev: for 1692.
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Dated 7th
Dep: 15th } August 1860.
Rec: 16.
E. 1 with 2 encls: ens:

3 Encls.
2 do Returned
No 3638

No 1481 - 31st August.

Submitting with the Board's observations and recommendations a letter from the Collector of North Arcot forwarding a Memo: from his Deputy Ramaswamy Pantoloo reporting the result of an investigation made by him into certain cases of fraud committed in the revenue Department of the District.

For orders: with a Memo:

Para 7.

Cadastral Survey
Operations
Tamil Districts

Copy in a Letter to Engr
dated 23rd Oct 1860 No 1144

397-70
24-1-95
20-5-95
26-11-97

No 397

20 August - R 24

~~of the state of the attached~~
of evidence.

4 With reference to Para 14, I yes will
see no need of the notice; but it may
be ~~—~~ wise as matter of form if the Govt
Govt think proper.

5- The Def. Coll appears from his Report (Para 11.) to have endeavoured at once to furnish proof of the death of the women. Direct proof would be in the nature of things all but an impossibility. It is not unlikely that the F. A. required such impossible proof: I do not think an Explicit Court can Explicit proof would have been so; the failure of the accused to show any evidence of their being alive, & the probabilities of the case, would have had their proper & reasonable weight.

I am inclined to discontinue the pensions at once.

6 There is one case mentioned in the Def. Coll's Report, wherein it is recommended that payment of the pension should be continued, but in which it seems to me it ought to be stopped. I allude to the case of Suvarna Bai in P. 23. The female proposed to represent the person was 5-1, which the rejection of 4 wives. The Def. Coll thinks save only 4-6, the Def. Coll thinks she may have grown; but a woman growing 7 inches after 24 years of age would be a marvel indeed. It is just possible ~~—~~ that the Resident would be warranted to this extent: but would mean that to return to pensioning this, & leaving the production of such evidence, which

a fresh trial might be allowed, I
think the allowance shd be stricken. I gave
It will be observed that the amount
to Rs 177 years; cannot a con-
stitute a strong temptation
to fraud.-

7- The Dist. Collr appears to
have shown much of both intelli
-gence & zeal in this enquiry. The
Collector is very anxious that he
should receive an acknowledgement
in the shape of promotion. He is
now in the fourth grade, the step
of the first appears to be promoted
into the third, which will raise his
pay from 250 to 350 Rs. I
think he has earned rewards.

8- With reference to the former
remarks in Para 4 & 5, I
a written agreement
from him as soon as
practicable after the
ten years are over
imprisonment of children was
considered before the system
Govt, with minor alterations,
by a Board of which I was
& was continued to some
years imprisonment. An
note was the happiest, as
the Govts' communication
formed in the Board's
Case,

R. D.

No. 1481

Proceedings of the Madras Government.—
Under date the 31st August, 1860.
Read the following Proceedings
of the Board of Revenue.—

Submitting with their observations a letter from the Collr of N. Arcot forwarding a Memo from his Depty Narasinna Puntalu reporting the result of his investigations into certain cases of fraud committed in the Yanmia Departt of the Dist.

(Here enter 1 of the Augt 1860 at 3688)

1. With these Proceedings the Board of Rev submit the report of the acting Collector of North Arcot on the Yanmian frauds lately detected in that district

2. Ten persons, including the Head of the Yanmia Depty (Sadr Yanmia) in the Collector's office and the Kazi of Arcot, were ~~several parties were~~ committed for trial before the Sessions Court on the charge of having fraudulently obtained the arrears standing in the names of two Gosha women who had ~~were ascertained to have been~~ long ~~since~~ dead. ~~The persons~~ were all convicted by that Court ~~save one who was acquitted~~ but the sentence was set ~~for the reason stated in para~~ aside by the Court of ~~of~~ the Board's Proceedings

Fourteen

~~last~~

~~Foujdari Adalat, on the but there is no reasonable~~ ~~ground that the evidence upon~~ ~~which they were convicted~~ was ~~of the truth of the charge~~ insufficient without positive proof of the death of the women who were personated.

The Deputy Col. Lester appears from his Report (para 11) to have endeavored to furnish proof of the death of the women referred to. But direct and positive proof would be in the nature of things all but an impossibility. There appears, however, ~~to be~~ no reasonable ground for doubt the ~~Foujdari Adalat~~ as to the truth of the ~~given such~~ impeachable charge; ~~but the fact~~ appears to the Govt that the entire omission of the accused to offer any evidence of the women being alive ~~was the~~ circumstance in itself a strong presumption against them.

3. The Govt agree to the recommendations made by the Board in paras 10, 12 and 15 of this Proceedings for the divestiture of the pensions of the persons there referred to, and they accordingly resolve to declare these allowances forfeited.

The Govt see no necessity for any preliminary notice in the case of the female pensioners referred to in para: 11, and their pensions will be stopped at once from the date of the last payment

4. The Govt further resolve, with reference to para 10, to pronounce Mahomed Habibulla late Sadr Gaumia in the Collector's office, inadmissible either to a pension or to future employment under Govt and to declare Mahmed Sabadulla Khan Kaji of Arcot also unfit for future employment. They agree with the Board that these two persons are entitled to the arrears of their pay up to the date of suspension, cannot legally be withheld.

5. Adverting to para 14, the Govt see no reason of the proposed notice and direct that the pensions of the women referred to

be

~~be discontinued hereafter~~

5. — In accordance with the recommendation in para 18, the Govt sanction the disbursement to Mrs Gomes (Rs (110) / — One hundred ~~and eighteen~~ nineteen, and as eleven annas per one as a remuneration for the services rendered by her in connection with the inquiries

6. — There is one case mentioned in the Deputy Collector's report, wherein it is recommended that payment of the Gaumia should be continued, but in which it seems to the Govt. it ought to be stopped. This is the case of Suram Bé in para 23. The female produced to represent this person was 5 feet ~~1~~ ~~inch~~ in height while the Register gave ~~Adopting Mrs Gomes supposition~~ only 4 feet 6 inches. The

Dep^y

Deputy Collector thinks she may have grown; but that ~~should~~ a woman grows seven inches after the age of 21 years is ~~hardly possible~~ impossible

It is possible that the Register was ~~perhaps~~ in error to that extent; but ~~very~~ good reasons should be shewn for believing this, and pending the production of such evidence ~~for which~~ the Govt are willing to allow ~~six months~~ Govt. think that the allowance be stopped. — It is observed that it amounts to Rs 177 a year; enough to constitute a strong temptation to fraud.

Six months will be allowed for the production of proofs; ~~at the end of that time~~ if it is not produced within the pension will be finally confiscated

7. The Board will obtain a Nominal Rolls of the Civil and Military pensioners whose allowances are

to

under this order,
to be discontinued and
will forward them to the
Civil Auditor and Military
Auditor General respectively,
for their information and
guidance.

8. The Deputy
Collector Narasimha Pan-
talu appears to have shown
much zeal in this enquiry,
and the Government &
the Joint Collectors
resolve to mark their
very anxious that he should
receive a share
reward as he deems
of his exertions by
in the shape of promo-
promoting him from
and the Govt are accordingly
the fourth to the
pleased to promote him
third grade of Dep
from the fourth to the
Deputy Collectorships
third grade. They think
that he has earned reward.

9. Adverting to
the Board's observations

in

in paras 4 and 16 of their
Proceedings, the Govt
remark that such frauds
as those now in question
must be expected to occurs under
till as a matter of course
the rules which exempt certain classes
of pensioners from public enquiry before
Gosha" Native
a Govt officer. After full consideration
it has been resolved to take those measures
but every possible exertion
should be made to trace
out cases of abuse. With
this view, the Govt direct
that all the Gosha
pensioners by a competent female
in the district be examined
and compared with the Registers.
and they must
be personally present before
for this purpose
suitable person on his behalf under
the Collrs orders, at the same rate
remuneration under the super-
of remuneration as now appointed
vision of the Deputy Collectors
in the case of Mrs Gomes.—

12 Copies
Bd of Revenue with Pro Dispch 4'
3 " Acct General
3 " Civil Auditor
1 " Milty Audr Genl
with Pro Dpch.

Revenue 1860 Despatch
Pro: of Govt. for August

No 1181.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
D/ 31st August/60
...

From Bd Crs 1849/61–15 Aug
238/9
From Do. 15 July/62
C No. 2049 dtd 18 Aug
2250.

Receiving the
report of the acting
Collector of Nellore on
the Yaumiah frauds
lately detected in that
District.

11-4-04 Yaumiah frauds in Nellore Collectorate

6-5-92
24-1-95
20-5-95

4/4/00
28/8/01
23/4/03

5-10

11-4-04
11/3/10

Copy in a Letter to Govt
D/ 28th Oct. 60 No. 119

7-4-10

16-7-14
10-5-20.

No 397 & 398.