M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1356 Press ~~Mis.~~

297-298

Dated 19 - 6 - 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 19th June 1862.

No. 297. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department, dated 10th June 1862, No. 2,095 B:—

Passing orders on explanations submitted by Sub and Deputy Collectors of North Arcot regarding the delay complained of by certain Pensioners in the adjustment of their pensions, &c. (Vide Military Proceedings, 10th June 1862, Nos. 156 A, 157 B.)

No. 298. ORDER THEREON, 19th June 1862, No. 1,356.

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue for communication to the Collector of North Arcot for his information and guidance.

(Signed) P. P. HUTCHINS,
Acting Deputy Secretary to Government.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

From James Vigne, George Brocus and other Pensioners residing at Vellore, dated 25th April 1862. { *Recorded in Proceedings of Government No.* 1530, *dated 28th April* 1862. } Read again the paper noted in the margin.

Read the following papers :—

From the Superintendent of Pensions, Fort Saint George, 30th May 1862, *No.* 618; *to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.*

With reference to the Order of Government given in the margin, I have the honor to state that I called upon the Acting Collector of North Arcot for explanation of the delay complained of by certain Pensioners in their receiving their stipends, and forward herewith his reply and the two enclosures which accompanied it.

No. 1530, 28*th April* 1862.

2. The Reports called for in the 2nd paragraph of the order above alluded to, will be forwarded as soon as practicable.

From the Acting Collector of North Arcot, Palamaner, 20th May 1862, *No.* 32; *to the Superintendent of Pensions, Madras.*

1. In reply to your letter noted marginally, I have the honor, with reference to the Order of Government, No. 1530, of 28th ultimo, to forward copies of the letters received in explanation from my Sub-Collector and Deputy Collector in charge of the Treasury.

29*th April* 1862, *No.* 5076.

2. In doing so, I beg to express my belief that no avoidable delay has occurred either in the payment of Pensions or adjustment of the claims of the Pensioners to Rice Money; and my hope that the small additional Establishment already applied for, to allow of these duties being satisfactorily conducted, may be sanctioned at an early date.

From the Sub-Collector of North Arcot, Vellore, 3rd May 1862, *No.* 69; *to the Acting Collector of North Arcot.*

1. One of the European Pensioners at Vellore has shewn me a Petition addressed to Government on the 25th ultimo, by himself and other Pensioners, complaining of the delay and irregularity which obtain at this Station in the issue of their Pension Pay and other allowances; and adding that when they applied to me on the 5th of March to ascertain when they were to receive their Pay, and who was the person authorized to issue it, I replied "that I have nothing whatever to do with them, that I believed they would be paid in future by the Tahsildar, but that if they had any claims or complaints, &c., to make, they must go to Chittoor." The Government in their order on this Petition, direct the Superintendent of Pensioners to report, in communication with the District Authorities, on the several allegations which it contains, and to submit the explanation of the Officer responsible for this second instance of delay in the payment of Pensioners at Vellore, and for the non-adjustment of the claims of the Pensioners to Rice Money.

2. I accordingly beg to submit through you, for communication to Government, such explanation as this Petition seems to call for from me, and in order to save time I do so without waiting for it to come before me officially

3. In the first place, I would observe that an idea seems to pervade the Petition, that I am the Officer responsible for the state of things that it sets forth and complains of. To shew the erroneousness of this view, it is only necessary for me to refer to paragraph 11 of the Order of Government in the Military Department, No. 4306, dated 27th November 1861, which distinctly directs that "the duties connected with the payment of Military Pensioners and Family "Certificate holders shall, from the 1st January 1862, be conducted throughout this Presidency "by the Officers in immediate charge of Civil Treasuries, Zillah or Talook," *i. e.*, by the Tahsildars and the Deputy Collectors in charge of Treasuries. The sole duty in connection with Military Pensioners which a Sub-Collector is required to perform, is that of mustering those who reside within his Division once in four months (*vide* paragraph 31 of the Order of Government just referred to, as also paragraph 7 of letter from the Collector of Madura to the Board of Revenue,

No. 75, dated 4th March 1861, quoted in a letter from the Superintendent of Pensioners, to the Secretary to Government in the Military Department, No. 6918, dated 16th February 1861,) I represented this in January last to the then Collector, Mr. Robinson, who entirely concurred in the correctness of my views on the point, and under whose instructions I forwarded the records of the Vellore and Arnee Pension Offices to the Deputy Collector in charge of the Treasury at Chittoor.

4. Having premised this much, I will now state all that I have had to do with the payment of the Pensioners at Vellore and Arnee, since the beginning of the present year. In March I, *under special instructions* from Government, paid them the arrears then due for three months. Towards the end of that month, I wrote to you demi-officially, as you will doubtless recollect, and asked you whether I should make the payments in April. Your reply was "No: your Jamabundy cannot any longer be delayed: let the payments be made by the Tahsildar and Sub-Magistrate." I therefore relieved my mind of all anxiety on this subject, and on the 23rd April proceeded on Jamabundy to Arcot, whence, on the 26th idem, I wrote to Mr. Locke, requesting him to send me the Descriptive Rolls of the Pensioners, to enable me to muster them in the ensuing month. On the 28th, I received an Arzi from the Vellore Tahsildar, in which he stated that he had received a money order from Mr. Locke, for the payment of the Pensioners in arrears for March, but that he required me to send him certain Rules and Records to enable him to make the payments. As I could not understand from the Arzi of the Tahsildar what the documents were that he wanted, and as I intended to return to Vellore on the 30th, and expected to be able to commence the muster of the Pensioners on the following day, I wrote to the Tahsildar and told him, with a view to saving the Pensioners a double attendance at his Kacheri, not to commence paying them until I arrived at Vellore, and that the payment and muster might then go on simultaneously. On reaching Vellore, I found that what the Tahsildar wanted was not "Rules," but the "Muster Rolls," he from being unacquainted with English, having misunderstood what the Pension Writer told him, and by mistake written the former word in his Arzi of the 28th, instead of the latter. The key of the box in which the Muster Rolls were, was with my Revenue Moonshee, who had inadvertently taken it out with him on Circuit—I gave these Rolls to the Tahsildar at once and the payment was commenced on the same day. On the 1st of May the Descriptive Rolls not having yet reached me, I wrote for them again, but as the European Pensioners were few in number and I knew them all by sight, I mustered them without waiting for their Descriptive Rolls and paid them for March and April—I was able to do this out of some money which remained in hand from what I had drawn for the payments in March. I received the Descriptive Rolls to-day, and the muster of the remaining Pensioners will be commenced on Monday.

5. It now only remains for me to notice the allegations in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Petition, and on this point I have to remark that what I told the Pensioners was either misunderstood or has been incorrectly reported. What I really did tell them was that they would be paid by the Tahsildar and mustered by me, and that regarding any complaints or claims they might have to make, they should *write* to Mr. Locke, not that they should go to Chittoor, a thing I never for a moment contemplated. I further informed them that I would forward to Mr. Locke, any letters they gave me—some of them did this, and all such letters were so forwarded accordingly.

6. I cannot close this letter without expressing my opinion that some modification of the recent Orders of Government for the payment of Military Pensioners by the Civil Authorities is called for, by the peculiar circumstances of this District. Up to the end of last year, there were four Military Officers in charge of Pensioners located in the District, but now the duties of the Department (with the exception of payment and muster) are all conducted at Chittoor, an arrangement which is productive of great inconvenience to the Pensioners who reside at the outstations. I would further point out, that whereas at Vellore, the number of Pensioners is large, the payment of them interferes seriously with the Tahsildar's other duties. This will be apparent when I state that at this Station, with a much larger Establishment than will now be available for the duty, the payments have hitherto occupied from twelve to fifteen days in every month; that since January, the number of Pensioners who have selected Vellore as their station of residence, has been increased by 400 or 500, and that this number will be still further increased as soon as the disbandment of the 52nd Regiment Native Infantry has been carried out. Another point to which I desire to draw your attention is, that the Europeans dislike attending at the Tahsildar's Kacheri for payment, and would much prefer if some arrangement was made for their being paid by a European Officer.

7. I beg that a copy of this letter may be forwarded to Government.

From the Deputy Collector of North Arcot, Chittoor, 13th May 1862, No. 144; to the Acting Collector of North Arcot.

In returning copy of the Order of Government, No. 1530, dated the 28th April and the letter of Superintendent of Pensions, dated the 29th idem, No. 507, I have the honor, with reference to the delay complained of in the payment of the Vellore Pensioners for March last, to explain that I issued my payment order on the 23rd April, immediately on the re-opening of the Office after the Easter Holidays, but for reasons I am not in a position to explain, the Pensions, &c., do not appear to have been disbursed till some days after receipt of the order.

2. In reply to a communication from the Superintendent of Pensions, I fixed the 20th of each month as the most convenient date to begin the work of payments generally, but the Superintendent wishing me to fix separate dates for Family Certificate payments and Pensions, I am just about to communicate to him that I have fixed from 15th to 20th of each month for Pensioners, payments, and 21st to 25th for the payments of Family Certificate holders.

3. Keeping in view the date (20th of each month) originally fixed by me for payments generally, you will observe that I was only three days behind in issuing my order for the payment of the stipends due for March, and that this delay was owing to the intervention of the Easter Holidays; and that the delay in the *distribution* of the stipends is not attributable to me.

4. I am not insensible to the long delay complained of in the disbursement of the Rice Money allowance, but I feel powerless to effect an adjustment of such claims—even now I have been obliged, as you are aware to weaken the efficiency of my own (the Account) Department by detaching one of its Clerks to attend exclusively to all Military affairs, but even under this arrangement, I find it impossible to carry on the work satisfactorily. What with Details daily passing through to other Stations or arriving on furlough to this, with the almost daily acquisition to the number of our Pensioners by the disbanding of Regiments, with preparation of Accounts and with the correspondence in the Military Department which is no light work, I can assure you, with all this extra work to attend to almost avoided in addition to my own heavy and responsible duties in connection with the Treasury, I have no easy task to perform, and I trust Government will be disposed to exonerate me from the charge of intentional neglect. On the sanction of the extra Establishment you have proposed to carry on the work of the Pension and Family Payment Offices, I shall soon be able to adjust the Compensation claims and restore the Department to a sound footing again; but till then Government must kindly bear with a few unavoidable short-comings, which are rather the result of the sudden transfer of a heavy charge on a Department already heavily burdened with its own work, than of the slightest disposition on the part of its Officers to intentionally thwart the views of Government.

ORDER, No. 2095 B, 10*th June* 1862.

The Governor in Council accepts the explanation of Messrs. Blair and Locke.

2. The difficulty experienced by the Civil Authorities at Vellore, in paying the resident Military Pensioners and Holders of Family Certificates, appears to be mainly owing to the unusually large number of persons of those classes present at that Station.

3. Statement No. I of the Appendix to Colonel Pitchard's Report, gives the average at 4848—being by far the largest number in the List. The measures taken consequent on the recent reduction of eight Regiments of Native Infantry, have apparently increased the above average—for Mr. Blair reports that since January, from 400 to 500 more have taken up their residence at Vellore.

4. Under these circumstances, it seems desirable that the former system should, until further orders, be reverted to at Vellore. That Station will accordingly be included in the List of excepted Stations, specified in paragraph 11 of Proceedings, No. 4306, dated 27th November 1861, and the Civil Authorities will, from the 1st July 1862, make over the duty in question to the Military Officer who may be appointed thereto—the remainder of the Military Pensioners in the District of North Arcot, continuing to be paid by the Civil Authorities as at present.

5. Ordered that the following G. O. be published.

G. O. by Government.—Here enter 19th June 1862, No. 234.

(True Extract.)

Dy. Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent of Pensions and Family Payments.
„ Adjutant General.
„ Controller of Military Finance.
„ Military Accountant.
„ Revenue Department.
„ Military Finance Department.

Exd. T. Stubbs.

Revenue 1862 Vol. Nº
Proc.s of Govt for June
No 1751.

Proceedings of the
Madras Govt in the
Military Depart.t

Dated 10th June
Recd 19th 1862.

No. 2095 B

Passing orders
on explanations sub-
mitted by Sub and
Mr Collr.s of St Thos
regarding the delay
complained of by
certain pensioners in
the adjustment of the
pensions &c.a —
No. 1356. 19 June
With an order

No 297 & 298

No 1356.

Forwarded to the Board of
Revenue for communication
to the Collector of Salem Circ.t
for his information and
guidance.

Fort St George
19th June 1862

To
The Board of Revenue
with Bo. Pro. No. 2095 B.
Dispd

C.F.