M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 521 Press ~~Mis.~~

138-139

Dated 10 - 3 - 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 10th March 1862.

No. 138. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department, dated 7th March 1862, No. 843:—

Passing orders on letter from the Collector of Malabar, suggesting that the duty of paying Military Pensioners which was transferred to the Civil authorities may be assigned to the Cantonment Joint Magistrate. (Vide Military Proceedings, 7th March 1862, Nos. 98, 99.)

No. 139. ORDER THEREON, 10th March 1862, No. 521.

Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue, with reference to their Proceedings of the 18th February 1862, No. 1,158.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

Received 1862 by Deputy
Gen. Mil. Auditor Genl.
Q
Returns of Mil. Pens.
Station of Cannanore
Feby 11th March 1862

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following :—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18*th February* 1862, *No.* 1158.

Read the following papers :—

From the Collector of Malabar, Calicut, 11*th February* 1862, *No.* 27; *to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort St. George.*

Dated 5th instant, requested to be returned.

In forwarding the accompanying original letter from my Acting Sub-Collector, I have the honor to suggest, that, under the circumstances therein stated, the sanction of Government may be obtained for the Cantonment Joint Magistrate at Cannanore taking charge of the Military Pensioners at that Station, numbering 150, transferred to the Civil Department, as it cannot but be felt as a great hardship by the Pensioners to have to travel monthly to Tellicherry to be mustered and receive their Pensions.

Vide paragraph 11 *of his letter.*

2. I fully agree with Mr. MacGregor, that if the simple form in use in the Civil Department for paying Pensions be adopted in the case of the Military Pensioners transferred to the Civil charge, business will be greatly facilitated. At present, the Returns connected with about 100 Military Pensioners paid by this Office, take nearly one quire of paper monthly.

From the Acting Sub-Collector, Tellicherry, 5*th February* 1862, *No.* 12; *to the Collector of Malabar.*

As directed in your letter of the 23rd January, I have the honor to inform you that I have taken charge of the Certificates of the Pensioners as shewn in the accompanying Muster Rolls, and also of the Records and balance of Cash. The Muster Rolls and Abstracts for the present month are under preparation by the Pension Writer formerly employed in the Brigade Major's Office, and to whom I propose to continue the allowance.

2. I have written to the Deputy Paymaster requesting him to inform me whether he will pay the Abstracts on my signature. If so, it will render the transmission of the Abstract to your Office unnecessary, and much delay and expense will be saved.

3. From inquiry I learn that the payment of the Pensioners is made with the greatest ease and regularity—an experience of thirty-seven years having given the Writer that acquaintance with the complicated minutia of the subject that the requirements of the Pay Office demands.

4. The services of this man or of a Writer similarly qualified cannot possibly be obtained for the sum of sixteen Rupees allowed for the Pensioners, and of which five Rupees I understand is expended in paper, and it is only by the courtesy of the Brigade Major that for the present his services are available.

5. I would here remark that the particular circumstances of Cannanore render the transfer of the Pensioners to the Civil Department extremely inconvenient.

6. There are in Cannanore a Brigade Major's Office, a Pay Office, as well as the Office of the Cantonment Joint Magistrate, who is also Commissariat Officer.

7. There is no Revenue Officer stationed either in Cannanore or within twenty miles of it. The nearest Officers are the Tahsildar of Cherrikul and Cottiam, both of whose Cusbahs are fourteen miles off. Both these Officers have heavy Criminal Courts as well as very extensive Revenue Districts.

8. To insist that either of them shall always be at Cannanore on a certain day of the month would be, I consider extremely injurious to the public service, and I have no hesitation in saying that the duties of these Officers in connection with the increased criminal jurisdiction given by the Penal Code and the increased revenue work due to the Amalgamation of the Talúks forbids the arrangement.

9. The Salt and Sea Custom Managers who are stationed at Cannanore, are the only Revenue Officers whose attendance can be relied on, and I question whether you would consider it advisable to impose the duty on them.

10. I am so sensible from the experience I gained at Paulghaut of the extreme hardships suffered by Pensioners when suddenly handed over to the Civil Department, that I am bound to protest against it.

11. It is the retaining the old Military character of the procedure, that occasions the difficulty and the only remedy is either to leave them under the Military Authority or let them become Civil Pensioners—under a simple system of Audit, the only object of which should be to provide that each Pensioner received his pay as long as he lived, and no longer.

P. S.—The Deputy Paymaster has stated that he can pay the Pension Abstracts after pre-audit in Madras on my signature, and the Abstracts for this month have accordingly been forwarded to him.

Ordered to be submitted for the consideration of Government.

The Board are disposed to believe that the adoption of the simpler forms used in the Civil Department in the matter of paying Pensions, would answer almost every useful purpose, and would greatly relieve the Paying Officers.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

Transferred to the Military Department.

19th February 1862.

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

ORDER, No. 843, *7th March* 1862.

With their Proceedings recorded above, the Board of Revenue submit for the consideration of Government a letter from the Collector of Malabar, suggesting that, as there is no superior Revenue Officer at Cannanore, the duty of mustering and paying the Military Pensioners and Holders of Family Certificates at that Station, which was transferred to the Civil Authorities in the Proceedings of Government marginally noted, should be assigned to the Cantonment Joint Magistrate.

No. 4306, dated 27th November 1861.

2. The only Revenue Officers now at Cannanore are the Salt and Sea Customs Managers, on whom the Collector hesitates to impose the duty in question; but His Excellency in Council observes that consequent on the contemplated early abolition of the local Deputy Paymastership, the incumbent being also the custodian of the Cash of the Civil Department*—it will apparently be necessary to appoint a Civil Officer to the charge of the local Treasury, and that the Officer so appointed would be available.

Revenue Order 19th February 1861, *No.* 386, *recorded in Military Proceedings, No.* 717, *dated 22nd idem.*

3. It appears to His Excellency in Council however, that, pending the arrangements which the abolition of the Deputy Paymastership may render necessary, one of the two subordinate Revenue Officers referred to in the preceding paragraph, might under the orders of the Deputy Collector in charge of the Treasury, discharge the Office of Paymaster of Pensioners, &c., as is done at Ramnad in Madura, as explained in the marginal extract from the Collector's Report on the subject, recorded on page 101 of the Military Proceedings of Government, No. 4306, dated 27th November 1861.

Payment of the Pensioners &c. at Madura is made by the Deputy Collector; and at Dindigul and Ramnad by the Tahsildar and Salt Amildar upon the written order of the Deputy Collector sent with a detailed List of the Pensioners, which List is returned to him by the Tahsildar &c., with the acquittances of the parties after payment is made.

4. This arrangement will, accordingly, be adopted for the present.

5. The Revenue Board's suggestion in paragraph 2 of their Proceedings, will be referred for the early consideration and report of the Controller of Military Finance, in communication with the Superintendent of Pensions.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.
" Controller of Military Finance.
" Superintendent of Pensions.
" Adjutant General, for information.

Exd. A. A. DeMonte.

No. 521.

Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue with reference to their Proc.s of the 18th Feby 1862 No 1155.

Fort St. George
10th March 1862

14 Copies to the Bd of Rev Dispo with Pro. Rs. & R. 843