M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 95	Press ~~Mis.~~
189-190	
Dated 23-1-1862.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 189. Read the following letter from C. W. READE, Esq., Acting Collector of Madras, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Sydapet, 6th January 1862, No. 1:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to address Government on the subject of their recent resolve,* that "the duties connected with the payment of Military Pensions and Family Certificates shall, from 1st January 1862, be conducted throughout this Presidency by the Officers in immediate charge of Civil Treasuries, Zillah or Táluq."

* Military Department, No. 4,306, dated 27th November 1861.

2. I know not how this sudden transfer of additional work on the Collector's Department may be felt in other Districts, or what the extent of that additional work may be; but I feel confident the Government can hardly be aware of its nature and extent in the District of Madras, and I can scarcely avoid prolixity in bringing to their notice the amount of labor thus suddenly and newly thrown on this office, and the utter insufficiency of the existing Establishments to perform it.

3. I may mention that, for the efficient conduct of the duties required at the hands of the Collector of Madras, the Establishment at his disposal is inadequate as it is, while the labours of the Collector himself, as well as of the Deputy Collector in charge of the Treasury, Mr. Jordan, are onerous in the extreme, rendered the more so by the insufficiency of their office subordinates. While such is the case, the Collector's Department is directed from the first of this year to assume charge of the duties connected with the payment of all the Military Pensions and Family Certificates, at the three stations of the Mount, Pallaveram, and Poonamallee. There is a total number of 2,013 Pensioners residing at the above three places, whose Pensions aggregate Rupees 10,000 and odd monthly. These Pensioners have each to be identified, and paid on certain dates in every month. This duty hitherto has been performed by three separate Officers, to whom an allowance of 4 Rupees per every 100 Pensioners was allowed, not as remuneration to themselves, but simply to provide for the requisite Writers or Clerks, to do the needful work of correspondence and accounts connected with the Pensioners, and I read that this allowance is henceforth entirely to be discontinued, and indeed that to effect this saving has been a main object of the transfer of the Pensioners from the Military to the Civil Department.

4. I can hardly believe that Government are at all sensible of the labor thus imposed on my Office, nor probably have they estimated the physical impossibility of carrying it out, unless with competent assistance in the shape of additional Establishment; and even with this, it can only be to the hindrance of other and more pressing duties that the Deputy Collector or the Collector could hope to get through the additional and tedious duties thus required of them.

5. But apart from the foregoing, there are other considerations, which at present involve some difficulty, and on which I solicit the instructions of Government. Of the 2,013 Pensioners, 136 at Saint Thomas' Mount are European or East Indian Widows of Soldiers, and 58 are old European men. It is impossible to expect any of these to walk a distance of 7 miles to and from this office to receive their Pensions; the majority, I am informed, are too old and too infirm, and so in the case of many of the Native Pensioners at all three places, and Pallaveram and Poonamallee are at far greater distances from the Collector's Office than the Mount. Thus it will be necessary, I presume, for the Deputy Collector to proceed in each month to those places, and the identification and payment of the Pensioners, and the arrangement of accounts will occupy, at least five or six days, during which that Officer will be absent from his ordinary and important duties connected with his Magisterial and Treasury functions, an arrangement which I fear must involve some expense, to say nothing of the valuable time lost in the services of a highly paid officer.

6. It is far from my wish to raise obstacles to giving effect to the Orders of Government. Whatever they may be, and however apparently difficult of enforcement, they will, I am sure, be strictly obeyed and carried out to the letter, so far as lies within the power of the Collector

and the Deputy Collector; but at the outset, I feel it my duty to let Government know the nature of these difficulties, in order that they may themselves judge of their force, and estimate how far this Department is in a condition to give effect to the recent orders in the matter of these Pensioners, with the existing Establishment, and in the prospect of a very heavy increase of magisterial work consequent on the introduction of the new Criminal Code.

7. In itself, the monthly payment, identification and attestation of 2,013 Pensioners is no slight labor, considering too the great care needed for the duty; and I am told it occupies at present nearly eight entire days in each month, and to this must be added a consideration of the additional office work thrown on the Department. The correspondence connected with these Pensioners for the past year at the three stations, is entered in the margin, and I leave it to Government to say how all this extra work can be efficiently done by public servants whose time and energies are already taxed to the very utmost. I submit, if hitherto, this work has devolved on three separate Officers, who by comparison have had little else to occupy them, that it is physically impracticable for my Department, as at present constituted, efficiently to superintend and look after these Pensioners, without greatly trenching on the ordinary and primary duties for which the existing Establishment has been framed; and Government will be aware that under the financial pressure, every office in the country has been recently cut down to the lowest minimum, barely sufficient to meet actual requirements; and here it is worthy of mention that, under the present system of executive administration in the Provinces, the labor devolving on officials is apparently greatly on the increase, while the means at command to bear the growing additional burden are daily being reduced.

	Received.	Despatched.
Saint Thomas' Mount	550	800
Pallaveram	200	240
Poonamallee	218	394
Total..	968	1,434

8. It has appeared my duty to bring these facts to the knowledge of Government, and I must leave His Excellency in Council to judge how far they bear out my assertion, that it is utterly impossible for the Collector's Department of this District to carry out this new and responsible duty, unless adequate provision be made distinct from the present Establishment; and even then the time that it will be necessary for the Deputy Collector, and possibly at times for the Collector, to devote to it, will prove a very serious inroad on the ordinary and more pressing avocations of those Officers, and this is perhaps as much deserving of consideration as the question of expense.

9. I know not how it may be in other Districts, but I presume, by comparison, that the number of Pensioners resident in most of them are really very few, and thus that the difficulties experienced here probably have no applicability elsewhere. I am of opinion that, in every respect, it would be a measure of real economy both as regards money and time, if no alteration were made in the hitherto system of paying the Pensioners at the three stations of St. Thomas' Mount, Pallaveram and Poonamallee. I do not see how it is possible that the work can be properly carried on in my office, without additional hands to the extent hitherto entertained. The sum allowed for this appears to me the very lowest practicable, while as I have just observed, the transfer to the Collector's Department must involve the sacrifice of much important time of at least one highly paid official, viz., the Deputy Collector, on whom it will devolve specially to attend to these Pensioners, to the unavoidable neglect of much of his own duty. And to give Government some idea of the amount of magisterial labor already devolving on this office, I may mention that during the past year Mr. Jordan himself singly has disposed of 209 magisterial cases ordinary, six cases for the Session's Court, and 795 cases under the Breach of Contract Act; this besides his somewhat onerous duties at the Treasury, which likewise have recently been greatly increased by the transfer of the monthly payment of all the Troops at these three stations; and for the first few days of every month this extra work entails on him incessant attention to the Treasury and Account Department to the interruption of his magisterial duties.

10. Government will not, I trust, misconstrue my object in addressing them on this matter. I have not overlooked the 13th paragraph of their orders in the Military Department,

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 23rd January 1862.

No. 4,306 of the 27th November last, but I do feel that it would be a dereliction on my part if I underrated, and if I failed prominently to call the attention of Government to the difficulties on which I have above commented.

11. Government have been pleased to except certain Stations and certain Pensioners from the operation of their orders, and with all deference I would submit my earnest recommendation, that the above three places within this District be included in the exceptional list, and that the system hitherto in force for the conduct of the duties connected with the payment of Military Pensions and Family Certificates, be allowed to continue; and I believe it will in the end prove in every way the most economical arrangement both as to time and money, while there can be no question that it will be very acceptable to the Pensioners themselves.

12. Should Government not be pleased to concur with me in opinion, and I am still required to give effect to the transfer, it becomes my duty to solicit sanction for the full amount hitherto allowed monthly to the disbursing Officers, and which amount will henceforth as heretofore be appropriated for the requisite Establishment; or if this mode of allowance cannot be permitted, I request sanction to entertain one Manager on Rupees 50 a month, and two Clerks on 15 each, to carry on the correspondence and all other details under the Deputy Collector connected with this new duty. And I have further to ask sanction for payment of batta for at least ten days, at the rate of 3 Rupees a day in every month, to the Officer on whom it will devolve to visit the above Stations, a sum that will barely cover his actual travelling expenses to and from those places.

23rd January 1862, No. 95.

No. 190. ORDER THEREON, 23rd January 1862.

Referred to the Military Department, with reference to the Order in that Department, dated 19th ultimo, No. 2,331.

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

No. 95.

Referred to the
Military Department
with reference to the
order in that Department
dated 19th Ultimo
No 2331.

I D S

Fort St George
23d January 1862
7 Copies to the
Secy Govt Cir. 24
Collr of Madras

R 19 Decr/62 No 2331.
Transferred to the Revenue Department.
W. S. Whitworth
Asst. Secy
11 Jany 1862
Dr Secy to Govt

Forwd Military Depatch
7/6 February /62 No 355

No 89 & 90

Revenue
Re: Pensions for January 1862 Despatch
From
No 103.
The Actg Collector
of Madras.

To The Chief Secretary
to Govt
Fort St George.

Dated 6th January 1862
Rec'd 9th "
Answered 11th "
No 1
No 22
(No Encls)

Explains the difficulties connected with the Dst in payments being made by the Civil Dept of Military Pensions and Family certificates.

R. P. 23 January
Settled accordingly