M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 520 Press ~~Mis.~~

317. 318

Dated 29-8-~~19~~1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 29th March 1864.

No. 317. Read the following letter from W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 16th March 1864, No. 1,619 :—

SIR,

1. I am directed by the Board of Revenue to reply to Government Order, dated 2nd March 1864, No. 377, Revenue Department, forwarding to the Board for early report, the suggestion contained in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Official Memorandum from the Financial Secretary to the Government of India, that in order to facilitate the introduction of quarterly payments to Military Pensioners, and to dispense with the appointment of Superintendent of Pensions and Family Payments, the payments on account of Sepoys' remittances, and Family certificates should be made by "Civil Treasuries."

2. The Board understand the intention to be that in regard to these classes of Military payments, which are now made by Military Officers in charge of Pensions in the several Districts, the same arrangement should be tried which so signally failed in regard to Military Pensions; and in order to form some idea of the duties connected with this branch of the Pension Department, the Board have referred to Colonel Pritchard's Report on the general subject, and extract the following remarks as exemplifying their magnitude :—

Paragraph 15. "A very important but onerous portion of the duties these Officers *(Pension Paymasters)* have to perform is the disbursement of the amount of Cash receipts sent to adjust claims and as Family remittances to Pensioners and Holders of Family certificates. The seeking out, and due identification of the parties especially amongst the Family Certificate Holders, is frequently a work of much time and labor."

Paragraph 16. "The remittances in some of the offices amount monthly to Rupees 500 and upwards in small sums from Rupee 1 to Rupees 30 on an average, and entail much correspondence.

Paragraph 24. "The following will show the nature of some of *(the frauds practicable and practised by subordinates in connection with these payments.)* * * * *

Second.—Retaining from * * * Family Certificate Holders their rice money or portions of it.

"*Sixth.*—By retaining the remittances sent by Cash receipts from Sepoys to their families, "instead of searching out the parties to receive them and informing them of their arrival."

Paragraph 132. "So long as it is necessary that the Superintendent "should be the medium of Family Certificate payments, and "that he should be so, as well as the principal controller, "experience shows to be most requisite, no simpler system can be adopted *(than that now exist-* "*ing)* furnishing sufficient checks. To this medium chiefly may be attributed the efficiency of "the whole system and its freedom from irregularities and losses in account."

Paragraph 170. "Besides by Family Certificates, Remittances are con- "stantly made by Sepoys to their families by cash receipts, "and complaints from them are frequent that the money so sent "does not reach their families for months after it should have done so. This is caused by writers "in Station offices for their own ends, neglecting to seek for the parties; by failing to make "known to them when applied to, that the remittance has been received; and occasionally by "inability to discover them."

Paragraph 171. "Persons for whom the amount of cash receipts is intended "often reside at a distance from the station, and are consequently "very difficult to be discovered."

It further appears from paragraphs 183 *et seq.*, that so great is the difficulty in discovering these parties, that very large amounts of unclaimed Family Certificates and cash receipts accumulate on hand to the serious loss and inconvenience of all concerned.

At paragraph 274 of his Report, Colonel Pritchard writes, "In the Family Payment Depart-
"ment, the duties of the Superintendent have been shown to be of much importance, and as an
Officer *must* be employed for this branch," &c.

At paragraph 344 *et esq.*, Colonel Pritchard states the rules he would propose for the manage-
ment of Family Payments, and among them the Board find the following :—

Paragraph 347. "Pension Paymasters are personally to pay the Holders of
"Family Certificates on the 15th of each month, Sundays
"excepted, notifying the payment in the usual manner on the
"Certificate, and taking the signature of the Holders to the Acquittance Roll."

Paragraph 348. "For this purpose he shall cause their attendance in
"groups of Regiments or Departments in such numbers only
"as will admit of being paid in each day, so as to prevent
"their being unnecessarily detained, or sent away unpaid."

Paragraph 350. Is to much the same effect as 347.

Paragraphs 351, 352, 355. Provide important arrangements in the event of casualties among Family Certificate Holders.

Paragraph 361. "Family remittances of all other kinds but by Family
"Certificates from Native Soldiers and followers to their
"families or relatives, *are* to be sent through Paymasters of Divisions as at present; the cash
"receipts being made payable to Station, Staff, or other Officers at Stations, who will *trace out*
"*the parties*, and disburse to them the amount."

Finally, the Board observe from the enclosures to Colonel Pritchard's report that the annual amount paid on Family Certificates on the average of the previous ten years was considerably in excess of that paid in Pensions, being nearly half as much again, the Pensions amounting to 18¾ lacs, and the payments on Family Certificates to 26 lacs of Rupees, the remittances being to a great extent from the over-sea stations which are almost exclusively garrisoned by Madras Troops.

3. The Board gather from these extracts and from other parts of Colonel Pritchard's report that the payments on Family Certificates and Sepoys' remittances, which it is proposed to transfer to Civil Treasuries in such manner as to allow of a considerable change in the system of the Pension Department, and the abolition of an office which Colonel Pritchard describes as essentially necessary for the proper working of the Family payments branch, involves much labor; heavy responsibility; great opportunity for fraud by subordinates; wide inquiry to ascertain where the parties are who are interested; difficulty in discovering them; difficulty in adjusting cases of non-payment for good cause; and a considerable amount of correspondence: and the Board have no hesitation in expressing their opinion that it is altogether unreasonable to suppose that such onerous duties can be undertaken and efficiently performed by the Revenue Department, in addition to their own extensive duties, or that the plan can fail to result in most seriously hampering both Departments, and ultimately breaking down as completely as did the experiment in regard to the Military Pensions.

4. The extent of the Revenue charges and the duties of Revenue Officers are so different in this Presidency from what they are in Bengal, that the fact of the plan having worked in the latter Presidency is no reason whatever for supposing that it is practicable here, where, for some time past, revisions of establishments and amalgamation of charges have been going on, which have left the Revenue Department with barely what is absolutely necessary for its own proper work. If, however, the Board are mistaken in supposing that it is intended to transfer these complicated duties to the Revenue Department, and if all that is required is that the Civil Treasuries shall pay to the holder and presenter the amount of a draft on them from the Pension Department payable to bearer, it is probable that this might be effected with some addition to existing Establishments, although even the simple disbursement of 26 lacs of Rupees over the Treasury counter in small sums ranging from Rupee 1 to Rupees 30 will entail a considerable

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amount of labor, but how far the results of such a system are likely to prove satisfactory to Government and to the Army, or how far it will facilitate modifications in the Pension Department and system of working are questions which appear open to much discussion, although they are not within the province of the Board to decide.

No. 318. ORDER THEREON, 29th March 1864, No. 520.

The Board of Revenue are requested, after communication with the Superintendent of Pensions and Family Payments, to submit a Statement showing the extra Establishment required on the supposition that the Civil Department merely cash the cheques (to A. B. or bearer) of the Military Paymasters on account of Pensions and Family Payments disbursed as at present and also quarterly, keep the necessary accounts and submit the necessary returns to the Offices of Audit and Account.

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

4. The extent of the Revenue charges and the duties of Revenue officers are so different in this Presidency from what they are in Bengal, that the fact of the plan having worked in the latter Presidency is no reason whatever for supposing that it is practicable here, where, for some time past, revisions of establishments and amalgamation of charges have been going on, which have left the Revenue Department with barely what is absolutely necessary for its own proper work. If, however, the Board are mistaken in supposing that it is intended to transfer these complicated duties to the Revenue Department, and if all that is required is that the Civil Treasuries shall pay to the holder and presenter the amount of a draft on them from the Pension Department payable to bearer, it is probable that this might be effected with some addition to existing Establishments, although even the simple disbursement of 26 lacs of Rupees over the Treasury counter in small sums ranging from Rupee 1 to Rupees 30 will entail a considerable amount of labor, but how far the results of such a system are likely to prove satisfactory to Government and to the Army, or how far it will facilitate modifications in the Pension Department and system of working are questions which appear open to much discussion, although they are not within the province of the Board to decide.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Secretary.

Revenue Board Office,
Madras,
16th March 1864.

Exd. J. Wright.

Rev=1864. Department.
Pro: of Govt. for March.

No. 721-

From the Secretary to the Board of Revenue,
To the Secretary to Government R. D.

Dated 16th March 1864.

Pro. 2d March/64 No 28-29

Re. Bd. of Rev. of 27 June/64 C. No 1710

Rec. 18-0
Rec. 19-0

No. 1,619.

No. 317 & 318.

Replying to Government Order dated 2nd March 1864, No. 377 R. D. suggesting that Civil Treasuries should make the payments on account of Sepoys' remittances and Family certificates.

No. 520. 29 March

William Ordy

The Board No. 520 of Revenue are requested after communication with the Superintendent of Pensions and Family Payments to submit a statement shewing the extra establishment required on the supposition that the Civil Department merely cash the cheques (to A B or bearer) of the military Paymasters on account of Pensions & Family Payments disbursed at present & also guarterly keep the necessary accounts & submit the necessary returns to the offices of Audit & Account-

JG

Pro. 29th March 1864 No 520 Board of Revenue