

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2429

Press
Mis.

124.125

Dated

7—10. 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
7th October 1865.*

No. 124. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Financial Department:—

Passing orders with reference to certain ques-
tions raised by the Acting Deputy Accountant
General as regards the grant of allowances to
an Officer of a lower grade acting for one of a
higher grade, and about the claim of a substi-
tute to the whole available amount of an
absentee's pay.

(Here enter 25th September 1865, No. 455.)

No. 125.

ORDER THEREON, 7th October 1865, Np. 2,429.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
25th September 1865.*

No. 71. Read the following letter from R. TAYLOR, Esq., Acting Deputy Accountant General, Madras, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated 13th September 1865, No. 94.

Post Audit Department.

A reference for instructions from a District Office compels me to trouble you; for while either the custom of this Province, or that which has hitherto guided me, would enable me to dispose of the case without reference, the two customs are unfortunately irreconcilable, and I believe mine to be in accordance with rule.

2. The rules order that when an establishment is arranged in classes, sub-divided into grades, a man acting for one in a higher grade of the same class shall draw an extra allowance, and also that the acting allowance of an outsider, shall be calculated on the average pay of the grades. A Deputy Collector of 3rd Class in North-West Provinces acting for a Deputy Collector of the 1st Class would draw no extra allowance; a person not a Deputy Collector acting would draw half the average pay of Deputy Collectors, only this amount must not, with any other half pay he may be able to claim, amount to more than the pay of the lowest grade. Here Deputy Collectors hold a precisely similar position both with regard to the conditions of their own service and the distribution of their superiors; here as there, they are graded officers; here as there their covenanted superiors are not graded officers; but the plan under which they draw acting allowance is precisely the reverse;—a man of the lower grade draws extra allowance, but an outsider draws—not half the average pay of a Deputy Collector, but—half the pay of the grade in which he may act. I submit that the same rules cannot admit such opposite courses.

3. In the decision of this question is concerned another which I have for some time wished to refer: under the new Uncovenanted rules, can a substitute claim the whole amount available from an absentee's salary? Under the old rules, he certainly could, and if this hold now, a case might occur, in which one man might act for 15 months on half pay, while another appointed afterwards would at once draw $\frac{3}{4}$ salary. This seems an anomaly, and I should rather think either that more than half pay can never be drawn, or that the case should be ruled by the analogy from the Military rules. Anyhow it is hard to fit in a plan of giving the whole sum available from the pay of an absentee with a system which gives half averages, and limits the acting servant's gross receipts to the salary of the lowest grade of a class.

4. The latter point is a general one, which it may be thought I should submit directly to the Financial Department. But the orders may affect local usage, and the question is intimately connected with the former, wherein local is at variance with general usage, and I believe with general rules. I submit, therefore, that if reference to higher authority be necessary, it should rather be made by Government than by a subordinate, and be accompanied with a statement of His Excellency's views.

No. 72. ORDER THEREON, 25th September 1865, No. 455.

The Government do not find that any rule exists precluding an officer of a lower grade when acting for an officer of a higher grade of the same class from drawing any increased allowance, although it would seem that the practice in the North-West Provinces, in regard to Deputy Commissioners, is to give no such increase.

2. The Government consider that the practice in this Presidency in regard to Deputy Collectors, under which a man of a lower grade (or as it is here called "class"), when appointed to act in a vacancy in a higher grade, draws an increased allowance, is quite reasonable, and in accordance with established rule in this Presidency, and that any prohibition of the practice would be most impolitic, where so few openings exist to which an Uncovenanted officer may look for promotion beyond the class of Deputy Collectors; while the class itself is small and the number in the higher grades is still smaller. The temporary promotion, with the advantage of slightly increased pay, is a valuable means of rewarding good conduct, which the Government desire by all means to retain.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
25th September 1865.*

3. As regards a person *not* of the class or series of classes or grades, in which he is appointed to act, being restricted to deputation allowance calculated—not on the pay of the grade in which he is appointed to act, but—on the average of all the grades, the Government are not aware of any rule to this effect being in existence, but they observe that its application is certainly undesirable here, where it would produce anomalies and much inconvenience.

4. For instance, the pay of the 1st Class Tahsildar is Rupees 250 monthly, and that of the 4th Class Deputy Collector is the same. It appears to the Government perfectly reasonable and expedient that if either a 1st Class Tahsildar or a 4th Class Deputy Collector be appointed to act as 3rd Class Deputy Collector, the acting allowance should be calculated on the pay of the 3rd Class Deputy Collector.

5. It would seem that, according to what the Deputy Accountant General considers the rule, the 4th Class Deputy Collector would in this case be entitled to no acting allowances, while acting in a higher grade of the class of officers to which he himself belongs, and the 1st Class Tahsildar would draw acting allowances calculated on the average pay of all the grades of Deputy Collector, and not on the pay of the 3rd Class, with the proviso that the aggregate of his substantive and acting allowances shall not be more than the pay of the lowest grade of Deputy Collector, which is equivalent to giving him also no acting allowance whatever.

6. As to the second question raised, the Government are decidedly of opinion that the whole amount stopped from an absentee's pay is available to remunerate the acting incumbent under the Uncovenanted Service rules, and that the anomaly noticed by the Deputy Accountant General is inseparable from a system where many different classes of officers exist, out of whom the best available must be selected to fill vacancies, without reference to class.

7. It is not likely that a change of incumbent, with change in the available amount of acting allowance, would often occur; but to adopt the proposed rule might often produce the still more objectionable result of being unable to secure a competent man to fill a temporary vacancy, or to reward him adequately for his services, even to the extent of the saving effected from the pay of the absentee.

(True Extract).

Recorded
RECEIVED

L. Johnston
Acting Secretary to Government,

To the Accountant General.
" Revenue Department. ✓

Ed. J. H. Burna.

Nov = 1865 Dep't
no. of for section.

Re = 2776

Proceedings of the
Prothonotary in
the District of

10

Dated 25th Sept 1865

Revised 22nd Oct 1865

Re = 455

26

Revised 22nd Oct 1865

with reference to the
questions raised by the
Atty. Gen. as to the
validity of the grant of
land to an officer of an
lower grade acting for
one of the higher grade,
and about the claim of
a substitute to the whole
available amount of an
absentee pay.

No 124725

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Re = 2429

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