

No. 25. Read the following letter from the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 25th November 1870, No. 6,836:—

I AM directed to submit the following observations for the orders of Government.

2. In Mr. Pelly's letter to Government of the 22nd Oct. 1866, No. 1,989, he recommended, in accordance with the wish of the Board, that the salary of their Head Sheristadar should be increased from Rs. 800 to Rs. 1,000. In support of this application, he drew attention to the distinguished position of the Sheristadar holding an office "the highest to which a native can rise under this Government," to the high qualifications required, the arduous nature of the duties, and the extent of the responsibilities.

3. Mr. Pelly added that if Government were not disposed to adopt his recommendation in full, he would suggest what perhaps would be a better plan, that the increased salary should be drawn after 5 years' approved service as Head Sheristadar in the Board's Office.

4. Government concurred with Mr. Pelly as to the importance of the duties of the Head Sheristadar, and said that the increased salary of Rs. 1,000 was not larger than was required, "in order that the post of Sheristadar to the Board of Revenue might continue to be an object of ambition to the ablest Native officials, and to command the highest qualifications," but they considered that a higher rate should be given only after 5 years of approved service, and on the special recommendation of the Board.

5. The then Sheristadar, Jeyaram Chetty, had attained to the position comparatively young, after being in the service 15 years only, and he seemed likely

to have many years of usefulness before him, but he only lived to enjoy the increased emoluments 2½ years,\* and his death was undoubtedly hastened by

the excessive work and anxiety which must always fall to the lot of the Sheristadar of the Board.

6. When Jeyaram Chetty died, the Board selected their present Sheristadar, A. Sheshaya Shastry, as the fittest and ablest member of the Uncovenanted Service, and offered him the post. He refused it at first, and afterwards accepted it with great reluctance.

7. The reason of this is obvious. He was then as Treasury Deputy-Collector of Tanjore, drawing (inclusive of Registration Fees) Rs. 750 a-month. He had served Government 21 years, and was 40 years of age. At his time of life the prospect of an increase in salary after 5 years was of most uncertain value, and, in the meantime, the expense of setting up an establishment in Madras, and the enhanced cost of living there, made loss inevitable. His salary is now only Rs. 50 more than it was in Tanjore, and his expenses must be at least 150 Rs. greater.

8. The Board have only entered into these details to show how inadequate a salary of Rs. 800 a-month is to attract men of the standing from which their Sheristadar ought to be chosen.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
2nd March 1871.*

9. Moreover, it seems to the Board to be scarcely logical, or in accordance with the policy pursued by Government in the case of all other appointments, to pay the same man at different rates for the same work, merely because he performs it for a stated time. They are thoroughly satisfied with Sheshaya's work at the present time, and they are certain that it will be neither greater in quantity nor better in quality after he has been in their office for 5 years.

10. The Government have attached the condition of *approved service* in the Board's Office to the higher rate of pay. In the case of a man chosen, as the Board's Head Sheristadar must be chosen after a long and distinguished career, the *approval* is certain, and any further probation is quite unnecessary.

11. The Board earnestly hope that Government will see fit to make the salary of the Head Sheristadar of their Office Rs. 1,000 a-month unconditionally.

No. 26. ORDER THEREON, 2nd March 1871, No. 373.

Miscellaneous.

This application will be recommended to the favourable consideration of the Secretary of State through the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

No.

To

THE SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Miscellaneous.

SIR,—In paragraph 40 of his despatch to the Government of India, No. 219, Financial, dated 24th June

1869, the Secretary of State sanctioned the proposal of this Government to raise the pay of the Sheristadar, Board of Revenue, after five years' approved service in the post to Rs. 1,000 instead of Rs. 800, the old established salary. I beg to refer to paragraph 10 of my letter to your department of 27th May 1867, No. 1,187, for further information on the subject.

2. The Board of Revenue in their letter, of which copy accompanies, now strongly urge that the higher rate of pay be attached to the post *unconditionally*,

Dated 25th November 1870, No. 6,836.

that the requirement of approved service is practically fulfilled before selection is necessarily made from among the most experienced and distinguished Native Revenue Officials in the service of Government. The cost of living at Madras is much higher than was formerly the case, and the transfer to Madras from the Mofussil necessarily entails such additional expense that the actual result to the officer selected is probably loss rather than gain in a pecuniary point of view until the increase is obtained.

3. This Government admit to their full extent the force of these arguments, and considering that the case calls for remedy, direct me to request that His Excellency the Governor-General in Council will recommend the proposed fixed rate of salary for the sanction of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,  
Secretary to Government.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 3738

~~From~~ *Pro. of the Prof. Rev.*

Dated 25<sup>th</sup> November 1870.

FOR ORDERS.

The office is one of very great  
importance - the duties  
are very arduous & in-  
cumbent. I would gladly be  
able to go to the States for  
travel if the conditions

I quote agree  
*R.*

*S. D. S.*  
*R. S.*

No. 373-

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 2<sup>d</sup> March. 1871.

Read the following. Proceedings of  
the Board of Revenue.

Recommending to fix  
Salary of Head Sheristadar of  
Board's Office, at Rs. 1,000 per  
mensem unconditionally.

(M. C. 25: Nov. 1870 No. 4836)

BA. N.  
J. D. S.

This application  
will be recommended to the  
favorable consideration of the  
Secretary of State through the  
Government of India.

L. N.

14 To the Secy of the Govt. of India

Ed. M. S.

2 March 1871

No. 374

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Financial Deptt

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In para 40 of his  
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 No 219 Finl dated 24 Jan  
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 sanctioned the proposal  
 of this Govt to raise the  
 pay of the Pheristan  
 Board of Revenue, after  
 5 years approved service  
 in the post, to Rs 1000  
 instead of Rs 800, the  
 old established salary

*Handwritten notes:*  
 By order  
 of the  
 Revenue  
 Department  
 25/3/71  
 12/4/71

Ms 25/6

Ms 25 March 1871

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of 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 70 No 6836.

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of the Rt Honble the  
Secretary of State.

L. A.

Alfred H. King  
March 13/13

John R. King  
B. H. King

March 14/13

Chas.  
De