No. 175. Read the following letter from PEDDU NAIDU, late Tahsildar of Suttiamungalum, Coimbatore, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, dated Coimbatore, February 1873 :—

I VENTURE to take the liberty of submitting an appeal to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, His Grace the Duke of Argyll, and humbly to solicit your patient perusal of the same, and its transmission with your kind support of the prayer therein made for which I shall feel most grateful.

2. I beg respectfully to point out that, for no crime or departmental misdemeanour, I have been reduced from Rs. 200 per mensem to Rs. 50, whereas a person actually guilty of crime was ordered to be restored and afterwards to be pensioned on his original salary. The punishment inflicted on me, simply because I am an old man, is unprecedentedly heavy, and unjustifiably severe.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

COIMBATORE,
7th February 1873.

To

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ARGYLL, K.T. & G.C.B.,
Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for India, London.

The humble Memorial of PEDU NAIDU,
Tahsildar of Suttiamungalum Taluq,
in the District of Coimbatore.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH,

THAT your Memorialist entered the Government service as a Peishcar in the Tanjore District, Manargoody Taluq. That your Memorialist by application and zeal soon afforded satisfaction to his superior officers who advanced him from step to step until he was promoted to Tahsildar. That your Memorialist during this long service afforded all the officers under whom he served the highest satisfaction by his great experience, by his activity, by his zeal, and his efficient performance of duty. That the last promotion given your Memorialist was that conferred on him by Mr. P. Grant, who removed your Memorialist from Bhowany to Suttiamungalum increasing your Memorialist's salary at the same time from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200.

2. That your Memorialist recently had for his superior officer Deputy Collector T. Kista Row. That the said T. Kista Row submitted several reports against your Memorialist, misrepresenting matters against him. That the Head Collector of the District, Mr. Wedderburn, made inquiry into the matter, and informed your Memorialist that he may return to his duty. That, during the absence of Mr. Wedderburn on leave, Mr. W. E. Sullivan, who was Acting Collector of Coimbatore for only two or three months, under the influence of Mr. McAllum Webster, when statements against your Memorialist had not been accepted by Mr. Wedderburn, submitted the papers to the Revenue Board. That the Revenue Board called for a further report upon your Memorialist after the lapse of six months. That, at the termination of that period, a report was submitted and the Revenue Board ordered your Memorialist's removal from Suttiamungalum and degradation to Sub-Magistrate.

3. That, being aggrieved by such decision, your Memorialist petitioned the Revenue Board as per copy of memorial herein enclosed, but without obtaining redress as per their endorsement entered in the margin.

No. 1572 of 1872.
The Board having perused Petitioner's memorial see no reason to modify their former orders.

4. That your Grace will observe that the noxious system of accumulating charges against a public officer was adopted by Mr. McAllum Webster—a system utterly condemned by Her Majesty's

Government in the Military service, and which equally applies to Her Majesty's civil appointments. That your petitioner further submits that nothing has been proved against your Memorialist.

5. That, in order that your Grace may easily ascertain the nature of the charges preferred against your Memorialist, he begs to annex a memorandum briefly summing up the same, and opposite to each item he begs to annex a short reply :—

I. That Mr. Grant was dissatisfied with me, and therefore transferred me from Bhowany to Suttiamungalum in order that a fair share of work may be extracted from me.	I. When I was transferred from Bhowany to Suttiamungalum I was promoted from Rs. 150 to 200 ; this could not have been because Mr. Grant was displeased with me ; on the contrary it is a substantial proof of his not having been displeased.—*Vide* Proceedings of Revenue Board, dated 23rd April 1864.
II. That I shelved my work on my Sheristadar.	II. Except when I was absent on duty in other parts of the taluq did the Sheristadar take up cases, or when I was sick.
III. That I was remiss in my revenue work.	III. In the seven years I have been in charge, the revenues have been increased by Rs. 37,000. This would not have been the case if I had been remiss.
IV. That I have been delaying in my magisterial work.	IV. No remark has been found, though searched for, to this effect in the Sessions Judge's record.
V. That I have neglected the public works and delayed execution of works entrusted to me.	V. I frequently brought to notice delay on the part of the Department of Public Works. I often obtained permission to execute works with which the Public Works Department was unable to proceed. I brought to notice the inefficient performance of work by the Department of Public Works, all which would not have been the case if I neglected the public works of the taluq. I executed works which the Department of Public Works ought to have done and in a shorter period than the Department of Public Works, which I would not have done if I neglected my work in this respect.
VI. That I quarrelled with the officers of the Department of Public Works.	VI. I had frequent occasion to bring to notice laches of the Department of Public Works; this cannot be considered as quarrelling. But no particular instance can be mentioned to prove that I quarrelled with the Department of Public Works. The fact of bringing to notice defects in the work of the Department of Public Works cannot be cited as proof of quarrelling.
VII. That I was unpopular in the district.	VII. If I had been unpopular there would have been many complaints against me by the ryots ; but it is admitted by my accusers that I have many friends. The Mazarnamah submitted to Government and signed by 5,000 ryots asking for my restoration, is the best indication that I am not unpopular.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th March 1873.

6. That your Grace will thus observe that nothing has been proved against your Memorialist whose accusers have not been able to establish any misdemeanour or laches of duty which render necessary or would justify the severe punishment that has been inflicted on your Memorialist.

7. That your Memorialist has been reduced from Rs. 200 to 50 and that at a time just as he was about to enter upon that period of service which would entitle him to the indulgence granted by Government to all old and faithful servants of the State, namely, a good-conduct pension.

8. That your Memorialist humbly begs to submit that he has not been guilty of any crime or departmental misdemeanour. That up to the time of T. Kista Row and Mr. McAllum Webster coming into the district, Memorialist performed and was considered to have performed his duties efficiently. That your Memorialist is now old, and, after a period of very hard service in a sickly climate, it cannot be expected that he would have the same energy as a man in the prime of life, like Mr. Webster or T. Kista Row, and it is neither reasonable nor just, because Memorialist has not after such service the vigour of youth, that he should be degraded and punished for a circumstance to which all servants of the State are equally exposed.

9. That your Memorialist, therefore, humbly prays your Grace will be graciously pleased, in consideration of his long and approved service, to give patient perusal to the enclosed copy of memorial he addressed to the Revenue Board, and if your Grace be thereby convinced of the injustice of the grounds upon which Memorialist has been degraded in his old age and so severely punished, as he has been by a reduction of his salary from Rs. 200 to Rs. 50, he prays and entreats that your Grace will be graciously pleased to restore him to his appointment or grant him a good-service pension according to his last appointment, for which, as in duty bound, he will ever pray.

No. 176. ORDER THEREON, 15th March 1873, No. 327.

Miscellaneous.

PETITIONER is informed that his memorial has been transmitted, as requested.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Petition Department.

Exd. J. Wright.

5/2
2 Encl.
21/2/73

Coimbatore Zillah
Suttyamungalum Taluq
Madras Presidency
February 1873.

To,
His Excellency,
The Right Honorable
Vere Henry Lord Hobart
Governor in Council.

My Lord,

I venture to take the liberty of submitting an appeal to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, His Grace the Duke of Argyle and humbly to solicit your patient perusal of the same, and its transmission with your kind support of the prayer therein made for which I shall feel most grateful.

I beg respectfully to point out that for no crime or departmental misdemeanor I have been reduced from Rupees Two hundred per mensem to Rupees Fifty, whereas a person actually guilty of crime was ordered to be restored and afterwards to be pensioned on his original salary. The punishment inflicted on me simply because I am an old man is unprecedentedly heavy and unjustifiably severe.—

I beg to remain
My Lord
Your Lordship's most obedient Servant.

W. 327.

Petitioner is informed that his memorial has been transmitted, as requested —

J. Murrock
15th March/73.

I. H. Petitions Dep. Dec 17 March/73

№ 599.

Government of Madras,

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

Petition No. 512 of 1873.

From Reddoo Naidoo

Occupation. late Tahsildar

of

Village.

Talook. Kattiamungalam

District. Coimbatore.

Dated } Feb. 1873.

Received 21st }

Enclosures. 2

Abstract.

Submits a memorial to the Secretary of State for India praying for restoration to his former post or for the grant of a good service pension and requests the Govt to transmit the same with their recommendation.

Begs to point out he has been reduced from his post of 200 Rs to one of Rs 50 though he has been guilty of no crime or misdemeanor, whereas a person guilty of a crime was ordered to be restored and pensioned on his original salary

Ld. 175-176

c. c: Inst. to R & Board

With Order No 327 - 15 March 1873