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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1186✓ B.P. No.	Press. Mis.
Dated 14. 8. 1878	197 .

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13/2/78

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PENSION DEPARTMENT.

25th April 1878, No. 138.

Service Books.

Read the following papers :—

From Major L. CONWAY-GORDON, R.E., Examiner of Public Works Accounts,
to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk,
9th March 1878, No. 224-W.

I have the honor to request an expression of the opinion of Government as to the nature of the entries to be made in Column 8 of the Service Books prescribed in Section 72 of the Civil Pension Code to be maintained by all the non-gazetted officers in Government employ.

2. From the last sentence of paragraph 3 of Section 72 of the Civil Pension Code, which runs as follows :—"No entries need be made in Column 8 except when there is anything especially good or bad to be recorded"—I gather that the entries in this column are to be exceptional and to be limited to such brief remarks as will enable Government, when finally granting the pension, to decide under Section 68 of the Code whether the full pension or gratuity is to be given. That is, that the entries in Column 8 are to be made with strict reference to the object for which the Service Book itself is maintained, *i.e.*, to decide whether claims for pension are admissible or not.

3. From the Service Books I have seen that are maintained in the Public Works Department, I have come to the conclusion that the general impression throughout the department is that Column 8 is intended to serve as a record of every conduct certificate, whether especially good or bad, or not, that may be given to a non-gazetted officer by any of his immediate superiors.

At any rate, as a matter of fact, the Service Books in the Public Works Department are generally cumbered up with certificates of no practical value whatever in deciding claims for pension, and which, for all the useful purpose they otherwise serve, might perhaps with advantage never have been written.

4. But if Government is of opinion that such certificates of conduct should be given by officers and should be recorded in this official and permanent form, I would suggest that some precautions be taken to insure these certificates being given only after a careful consideration of the facts of the case, that they should be made only in the presence of the officer concerned, and if animadverting on the officers' conduct, that they should be subject to some appeal or investigation by higher authority. I further think that they should not be made at all except by officers of the Engineer Establishment, or by officers ranking as such.

5. My object in making these suggestions is to avoid the violent fluctuations of opinion, with regard to the conduct of a Government servant, such for example, as are recorded in the accompanying Service Book of one of the Accountants now employed in this office. Between two excellent certificates, Government will observe sandwiched a statement of utter incompetency.

6. In this case, the entry condemnatory of conduct was made by an officer of the upper subordinate establishment with regard to an Accountant, who in the department also ranks as an upper subordinate, and I hardly think that the mere fact of the peculiar system obtaining in this Presidency under which an upper subordinate of

delivered by hand to the Secretary to Government on 25th April 1878.

the Executive Branch often holds charge of a division justifies a system under which such sweeping condemnations can be passed subject apparently to no appeal.

7. The Accountant has twice applied officially to me either to have the entry reversed or the matter investigated. I have investigated the matter sufficiently to satisfy myself that the case is one of those unfortunate ones in which two people, both excellent in their way, are brought together who do not suit, and that in this particular case the misfortune was much aggravated by neither of the parties concerned having the tolerant self-command, which a good education alone can bestow.

8. Personally, from my knowledge of the Accountant's work, I quite agree with the opinions expressed by _____ and _____. I cannot of course object to the formation of any opinion to the contrary by _____, but I do object to the official expression by upper subordinates to upper subordinates of such sweeping censure, without apparently there being any appeal. I wish in fact, if certificates of conduct are to be entered in the Service Book at all, that the entries made should be fenced round by all the precautions thought necessary with regard to entries in the defaulter's books.—See P. W. Code IV. I. 24.

No. 1241.

Transferred to the Financial Department.

(Signed) E. A. FOORD, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

12th March 1878.

No. 453.

Referred to the Accountant-General for his opinion.

FORT ST. GEORGE, (Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
15th March 1878. Chief Secretary.

From L. C. PROBYN, Esq., Accountant-General, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 20th March 1878, No. 1606.

Audit Department.

With reference to the letter from the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, No. 224-W, dated 9th instant, referred to me for opinion under your endorsement of the 15th idem, I have the honor to state that Column 8 in the Service Book is often wrongly used for conduct certificates, whereas, in my opinion, it should be strictly reserved for the entry of any breaks, &c., in service with the cause or causes thereof, and for the record of such remarks, either specially good or specially bad, as the head of the office may consider ought to be before the Government when it determines the amount of pension with reference to Section 68 of the Pension Code. Precise rules can scarcely be laid down, but ordinarily a fault would not, under these circumstances, be recorded, unless it were of sufficient gravity to merit severe punishment; while good service would only be stated when it was of sufficient importance to entitle the servant to formal recognition, and when its record might lead to the avoidance of a penalty which might perhaps otherwise be inflicted under Section 68 of the Code.

2. In the particular case which has given rise to this general reference, I can find no trace of actual degradation though Mr. _____ has recorded that fact in the Service Book which, as it stands, seems to me to be open to question.

3. The Examiner's letter and the Service Book which accompanied it are herewith returned.

ORDER THEREON, 25th April 1878, No. 138.

These papers will be communicated to all Departments with the intimation that a Service Book should be a record of facts not of opinions.

2. Entries in Column 8 will in future be made only by the officer empowered to dismiss or appoint the subordinate concerned and will in ordinary course be open to revision by higher authority.

3. The remarks of the Examiner of Public Works Accounts on the entry that has given rise to this reference will be referred for consideration in the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

Frederick Campbell
Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Accountant-General.
" the Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
" the Controller of Military Accounts.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Military Department.
" the Revenue do.
" the Financial do.
" all Heads of Departments.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

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PENSION.

THE ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL.

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Dated April, 25th.

Recd May 15

G.O., 28th April 1878, No. 138.

APRIL.

Service Books.—Communicating, with observations, certain papers concerning entries to be made in Column 5 of Service Books.

Ch 1186. 14 January 1878
10th London

Ch 1186

*Communicated to the
 Board of Revenue, Director of
 Revenue Settlement, Superin-
 tendent of Revenue Survey
 and Conservator of Forests.*

Ch 1186

14 June 1878

- 21 To the Board of Revenue, 20.18
- 26 To the Board of Revenue, 20.18
- 17 To the Board of Revenue, 20.18
- 81 To the Board of Revenue, 20.18