Revenue Department.

G. G. Rec 1271/D. 9. 1858

Backno 33-34

Diary 21. 9. 1858

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 21st September 1858.

No. 33. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Political Department; dated 5th July 1858, No. 425.

Referring to this Department for disposal the case of Meerambee, a Yeomiahdar of the Nellore District. (Vide Political Consultation 6th July 1858, Nos. 13-14.)

No. 34. ORDER THEREON, No. 1271; dated 17th September 1858.

The Government observe that the case of Meerambee has been disposed of by the orders passed on a letter from the Board of Revenue dated 6th July 1858 recommending the privilege of exemption from personal appearance to be conceded to certain female Yeomiahdars and Pensioners.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 425.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 5th July 1858.

Read the following letter from Surgeon E. G. BALFOUR, Government Agent at Chepauk; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 28th June, No. 1132 of G. A.

SIR,

In Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 371, dated 8th Instant, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council referred for my report the case of a Nellore Pensioner named Meeram Bee, and not being aware, even yet, of the reasons for so referring it to me, I was, and am, not able to frame any report in brief terms.

2. In order to ascertain the nature of the case, I sent it on to the Collector of Nellore, whose reply, subjoined, shows the person not to belong to that Class of Carnatic Stipendiaries to whom the Treaty of 1801 relates, and seems to point out that it is the woman's Gosha or Seclusion which has caused this reference to me.

3. On this subject, I have already twice had the honor of reporting and stating the Laws of the Mahomedan Religion and feelings of these people. When the Gosha Order was first being thought of, I mentioned to Mr. Bourdillon in conversation, that the issue of any such order was equivalent to withdrawing the Stipend, and since then, in one of my letters I have had the honor of submitting that by the Mahomedan Religion every women has to retain her Gosha or Seclusion, being only permitted to appear unveiled before "their Husbands, or their Fathers, or their Husbands' Fathers, or their Sons, or their Husbands' Sons, or their Brothers, or their Brothers' Sons, or their Sisters' Sons, or their Women, or their Captives which their right hand shall possess, or to such men as attend them, and have no need of Women, or unto Children who distinguish not the nakedness of Women."

4. Any Mahomedan Woman acting otherwise than in the above manner is acting in direct opposition to the injunctions of her Religion, and amongst the very humble even it is only some pressing urgency that would induce them to disgrace themselves by appearing in public unveiled.

From F. B. ELTON, Esq., Collector of Nellore; to Surgeon E. G. BALFOUR, Government Agent at Chepauk and Paymaster of Carnatic Stipends, dated 23rd June, No. 148 of 1858.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 15th Instant, and the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, under date the 8th Idem, I have the honor to state that Mareumbee, the person alluded to is a Yeomiahdar of this District, to whom a subsistence allowance of 5 Rupees per month was originally granted under an Enayetnamah of the Nabob Oomdut Ool Oomrah, under date the 24th Rajb of 1213, Hejri (A. D. 2nd January 1799,) which was continued to her since the assumption of the Country by the British Government.

Circular Orders of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st July 1850, *approved by Government in Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, dated 5th June* 1850.

2. Mareumbee continued to draw her Pension by Vakeel, until the promulgation of the order requiring the personal appearance of Female Yeomiahdars above the age of 50 years, to draw their Pensions, Mareumbee being one of those coming under the restriction, but a Gosha Woman, abstained from appearing personally and her Yeomiah is therefore left undrawn from January 1850. Under the circumstances mentioned by Major Lys, I beg to recommend that Mareumbee may be allowed to draw her Pension without personal attendance at the Cutcherry and that sanction be at the same time granted for the payment of the arrears due to her.

* *Forwarded to the Board of Revenue, under date 25th November* 1856.

3. I have included her name in the List* of persons recommended for the privilege of exemption from personal attendance on the grounds of her being a Female of Rank and respectability, and one who has hitherto strictly maintained her seclusion in private life. Her Father belonged to the family of a late Nabob of Cuddapah, and her husband was the Killadar of Nellore.

The case of Meeram Bee was referred to the Chepauk Agent, because it was stated by the Superintendent of Pensions in his letter to the Adjutant General of the Army that her Pension had been conferred upon her by the late Nawaub. As it appears now from the Agent's Report that Meeram Bee is a Yeomiahdar of the Nellore District and does not belong to the Class of Carnatic Stipendiaries, the correspondence regarding her will be referred to the Revenue Department for consideration and orders.

(True Extract and Copy.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department,
with Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 371.
,, Government Agent at Chepauk.
~~Read the following letters~~

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

No. 371.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 8th June 1858.

Read the following letter from Major J. H. HILLYARD, Superintendent of Pensions; to the Adjutant General of the Army, Fort Saint George, dated 2nd June 1858, No. 385, submitted by the Deputy Adjutant General of the Army.

SIR,

No. 173, dated 31st May 1858.

With reference to the annexed copy of a letter from the Officer Commanding the 45th Regiment N. I., I have the honor to return his communication to your address, No. 156 of the 19th Ultimo, and at the same time to acquiant you that Meeram Bee, the individual therein alluded to, appears to have had her Pension conferred upon her by the late Nabob, and she is not in consequence borne on the Books of my Department.

From Major F. B. LYS, Commanding 45th Regiment N. I.; to the Adjutant General of the Army, Fort Saint George, dated 19th May 1858, No. 156.

SIR,

I have the honor to request you to bring to the notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the case of one Meeram Bee a Zemiahdur in the Nellore District, who is entitled to a Pension from Government and who has been unable to draw her Pension for some years past in consequence of an order from Government directing that no Pensions are to be paid except to parties who attend in person.

The woman in question drew her Pension for many years by Vakeel, but since the issue of the order referred to. She has forfeited her Pension rather than incur what is to her the disgrace of seeking it in person.

She is the Sister of Subadar Surfoodeen, a respectable Native Officer of the Corps under my Command, and he undertakes to be answerable that no loss shall accrue, if the sanction of Government could be obtained for his Sister's drawing her Pension as of old, without personal attendance at the Cutcherry.

I have written to the Collector of Nellore on the subject and he advises my making this application.

Transferred to the Superintendent of Pensions, Fort Saint George.

(By order)

(Signed) F. S. GABB, Major,
Deputy Adjutant General of the Army.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
21st May 1858.

From Major F. B. LYS, Commanding 45th Regiment N. I.; to Major J. H. HILLYARD, Superintendent of Pensions, Fort Saint George, dated 31st May 1858, No. 173.

SIR,

In reply to your letter, No 364 of the 28th Instant, I have the honor to inform you, that when I addressed my letter, No. 156, dated 19th May 1858, to the Adjutant General of the Army, I was aware that the Pensioner Meeram Bee was not borne on the Books of your Department, as I had previously addressed the Collector of Nellore on the subject, and he had advised my applying to Government to have the restriction complained of removed. It was with that view, that I wrote to the Adjutant General, and if yon have my original letter to him, I shall be obliged by your returning it to his Office, in the hope that the sanction of Government may be obtained for Meeram Bee, to draw her Pension, without having to appear in person at the Collector's Cutcherry to receive it.

No. 236.

The Commander-in-Chief has the honor to forward for the orders of Government, the accompanying letter from the Superintendent of Pensions with its Enclosure from the Officer Commanding 45th Regiment N. I.

(By order)

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
3rd June 1858.

(Signed) F. S. GABB, Major,
Deputy Adjutant General af the Army.

Ordered that the foregoing communication and its Enclosures be referred to the Government Agent at Chepauk, who will state whether any and what objection exists to Meeram Bee being permitted to draw her Allowance without personal attendance at the Collector's Cutcherry.

(True Extract and Copies.)

/sd/ J. Pycroft

Chief Secretary.

To the Government Agent at Chepauk.

8th March 1-371

R 11th 58

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

Dft to Cons 11th June/58 P 445

Revenue 1858 Deptt
Dft to Cons. 21st Sept.
No. 1107

Extract from the
Mins. of Cons. in the
Political Department

Dated 5th July 1858
Recd 10th
1 Encl. No 425

Referring to this
Department for disposal the case of Meeramber
Bee a Jeomialidar
of the Hellore Distt.

No. 38084.

Write an order
No. 1271. 17th September 1858.

No. 1271

The Government Observe
that the case of Meeramber has
been disposed of by the orders passed
on a letter from the Board of Revenue
dated 6th July 1858 recommending
the privilege of exemption from
personal appearance to be conceded to certain female Jeomiadars and Pensioners.

Fort Saint George
17th September 1858

3 Copies to the Polit. Dept. Dated 18th