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To THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

CONSUL OFFICE  
LONDON, S.W.

From MR. H. M. GIBBS,  
DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF INDIAN POLICE (Retired),  
c/o NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA LTD.,  
26, BISHOPS-GATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.

30th October, 1914.

C.O. No. 24834.  
17th July, 1914.

*pure copie*

Sir,  
I have the honour in continuation of correspondence ending with your marginally noted letter to send you a copy of another letter I have addressed to the Secretary of State for India.

- (2) I would respectfully venture to suggest with reference to the concluding remark in your letter that though the matter I have the honour to bring to your notice is not one you can, perhaps, interfere in, it is one the practicability and advisability of which you might perhaps see your way to making enquiries about.
- (3) Granted the stamp of settler I refer to is good it would seem that facilitating their importation into the Colonies by the simple method I propound would be economically sound and therefore cheap for the Empire as a whole at the very small additional cost that would fall on the Indian Finances.

I am, Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,

*H. M. Gibbs*  
Deputy Inspector General of Indian Police,  
(Retired).

To  
THE MOST HONOURABLE  
THE MARQUESS OF CREWE,  
P.C., K.G., G.C.V.O.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA,  
INDIA OFFICE,  
LONDON, S.W.

From  
MR. H. M. GIBBS,  
DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF INDIAN POLICE (Retired),  
C/O NATIONAL BANK OF ENGLAND, LTD.,  
26, BISHOPSGATE STREET, E.C.  
30th October, 1914.

My Lord,

I must ask you to pardon me for again troubling you in these anxious days. My apology is that I venture to think the matter (1) very important to a number of officers placed like myself (2) the time for the consideration of this matter is drawing near; the actual time will be when the report of the Indian Public Service is considered.

India Office,  
No. F. 3633  
17 July, 1914.

(2) I have to thank you for your marginally noted letter about the papers I ventured to send you in connection with my request that the Indian Uncovenanted Services Pensions might be made payable all the world over at the rate of 1/9 the rupee. I said this, of course, in so far only as the rate of exchange rules affect those whose pensions are paid or will be payable under the present rules. I have no wish to be considered to suggest that a better rate of pension should not be given to officers retiring under the rules that are about to be passed. I most sincerely hope that a better pension will be given.

(3) That the cost of living in India is no longer cheap has, I venture to think, been made quite clear by the correspondence that appeared in the public press over the suggestion that the pay of officers sent with troops from India to Europe for the war would be calculated on the Home instead of the Indian rates. This correspondence was about pay and not pension, which is very much less than pay. Home prices govern Indian rates, especially in the expenses of Europeans, most of whose wants have to be supplied from England, thus entailing heavy additional freightage and salesman's profit charges.

(4) In case I should not have made my point clear I should like to point out the matter is not one of domicile in India, but of being able to stay on for a few years after retirement or of being able to revisit India after retirement without fear of a drop in one's pension from £437 6s. 8d. to £333 10s. or of over £100. The fear of this drop makes the would-be settler in rupee currency British Colonies also.

(5) The desire to stay on for a bit in or to revisit India might arise from sheer love of the life there or from the wish to see one's children who cannot in their young married days afford the passage money home. A house could be taken in some hill station to which the wives and children at any rate could for two or three seasons come for a change free of cost, and get the fresh good air they need to enable them to keep their health and

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strength without (1) fear of debt over passage money home (2) the accompanying horrors of debt, (3) their resultant strain of mind and health. Fear of debt and the consequent protracted stay in the climate one's doctor and common sense tell one to get out of sharp, is responsible for a great deal of cruel and needless misery which would be mitigated if my proposal were granted. Means of transport do not become more restricted as time passes so there would be no extra fear than there is now of the children being put to school and gragged up in India to the deterioration of the race.

(6) So far as the Colonies are concerned the rules governing admissibility to draw "exchange compensation on pay" would keep the blood brought in white pensioners who wished to settle as Colonists would go more freely to the Colonies. They would do as men have been doing and are doing now, though in restricted numbers, and that is take furlough to visit a selected Colony, select and buy a site, and then after leaving some one in charge to open the place up, return to duty; the idea being while on full pay to have a place got more or less into working order by the time one has to retire; one can then either take one's children with one or let them follow once their particular form of education is completed. I venture to think that, in the light of what is now going on, my proposal would be for the benefit of both Colonies and pensioners and so of the Imperial Government of which the Indian Government is a part. The knowledge that the pension would be payable at the same rate as it is in England would be an incentive, to such as want to avoid the deadly restricted life we pensioners mostly have to face at home, to so arrange their affairs while still on duty that they may, on retirement, settle in congenial surroundings.

(7) As I have already shown the actual yearly increase to the pension pay bill would be small, even if, as I pray, the grant were made available to those who are already pensioners.

(8) I have seen it mooted that pensioners staying on in India would handicap Government by forcing old-fashioned ideas of governing on Indians, whether chiefs of States, or our own subjects. I venture to assert there can be but few pensioners of this description: if any are able and willing to try to make their voice heard they will stay on with the rupee at the present rate of exchange as they would not offer their advice for nothing. Another and a stronger point is that in these days our officials are much too wide awake and careful of their responsibilities to allow any attempt at such action to remain unnoticed or unchecked for any appreciable time.

(9) I would venture the suggestion that all pensions be paid at 3/6 the rupee in London, pensioners being left to arrange with bankers, agents, &c., for the money being sent where it is wanted.

(10) Again apologising for troubling you,

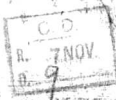
I am, my Lord,

Your most obedient servant,

H. M. Gibb  
Deputy Inspector General of Indian Police  
(Retired)

G. 42907/1914  
Africa

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Se  
10 November 1914.

Sir,

DRAFT.

W. M. Gibbs Esq.

MINUTE.

Mr. Shepper Nov 7/1914.

Mr. Bottomley 7/11/14

Mr.

Mr.

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Islington.

Mr. Harcourt.

I am &c to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> of October

~~and to inform you that~~  
forwarding a copy  
of a letter to the  
S & S for India on  
the subject of the  
position of the personnel  
of the Uncovenanted  
Civil Services of India.

(Signed) H. J. READ.

for the Under Secretary of State