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Para. 1

1919

29 July

Last previous paper

Recd 22 Aug 1919
Copies sent 1400 9/ Dec 9 1000
72511

Next subsequent paper

W. O.
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(2019) (1-1) W. O. 6-21

Memorandum of appl. on Uganda Rly

Submits statement of circumstances of promotion of appl. & claims to be done in respect of leave, passage, part of service & reinstatement

Mr. Brotherton by Lt. Col. Robert Young

He resigned his appointment because a junior officer was promoted over him. We must trust the authorities in regard to promotions, the railway grade & must assume that the officer promoted was selected for merit & not of seniority. Mr. Barr was an equivalent officer, but we must assume that to have a junior through being retained at his post. The matter should be regulated, & that a successor could be sent. The local authorities are also the only possible judges as to the working of highest grade of service. As regards leave his service was from left 10th 1912 to Dec 9th 1918. 5 1/2 years & months. He was absent on leave to India from Feb 28th 1914 to Feb 11th 1917 & then received 156 days leave at the end of his service. His full service of 175 months of 1 day & 1 month & 1 week.

ly come to 225 days, but we do not know that
if his service was in unhealthy station &
thereby the leave India must be taken into
account. Subtracting the period of his absence on
leave from his total service months & services
we are left with 200 days. It is not clear that at
any time he would be entitled to
a long leave and he actually had about
100 days leave in 1870 because he was
absent from service for 156 days
but the service days actually
worked off are not entitled to leave

It is not possible to say
that the Government is not prepared
to interfere with the claims of the Government
that it would be an advantage
to have a number of leave
days

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33, Morpet
Spring
HULL.

July 29th 1919.

TO: The Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Dear Sir,

I, the undersigned, beg to forward this my application for your kind consideration, appealing against the decision of the Acting General Manager of the Uganda Railway, British East Africa.

I have the honour, therefore, in requesting that an interview be granted me, so as to enable me to lay before you the whole of my grievances, as, in my humble opinion, I feel that my case has not been justly dealt with by the Authorities concerned.

The details of my case are as follows.

- (A) I was locally engaged by the Uganda Railway Administration as a First Class Guard, on September 24th, 1915, signing a three years Agreement, which expired in September 1918. Prior to the expiration of my first Agreement, I was re-engaged by the Railway Administration for a further period of three years. The second Agreement expired in September 1918. On the completion of my second Agreement, no further contract was signed to me, nor did the Authorities consult me on the subject, yet I continued serving the Railway in the capacity of a Station Master till I tendered my resignation.
- (B) On the outbreak of war I made a personal application to the Railway Authorities to rejoin my Regiment - the 1st Battalion Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, being a British Army Reservist. My request was refused on the grounds that my services were indispensable. I thereupon rejoined the Uganda Railway Volunteer Corps, helping in the ordinary Military duties of Patrol Work, etc., till the arrival of the Indian Expeditionary Force. We were then relieved of our Military duties and returned to our usual Railway work.
- (C) From 1915 to 1917 I was Station Master in charge of Kajjado Military Base Station during General Smut's advance into German East Africa.
- (D) In 1917 I was granted six months privilege leave the first since my engagement. I sailed for India on February 20th, 1917, my passage being paid by the Administration.
- (E) On my arrival in India I desired to rejoin my Regiment which at that time was in Mesopotamia. I tendered my resignation accordingly and received a reply back from the Traffic Manager informing me that my resignation would not be accepted and I must return under Martial Law Regulations. Copy of which was attached. I had no other alternative left but to comply with the order. I arrived back in British East Africa on September 1st, 1917 and was placed straight away in charge of the very important station of Nakuru.
- (F) On October 25th, 1918, I tendered my resignation, and I was privately informed by one of the Clerks in the Traffic Manager's

Office, that a junior hand was being granted the post of District Station Master, Nairobi. I appealed against this unfair treatment and partiality which was shown by the Traffic Manager on the following grounds:

- (1) I was his senior by a whole year.
- (2) Held certificates for all branches of Railway working, which were not in his possession.
- (3) My wider experience entitled me to the post, owing to my having been in charge of important stations since my engagement, and furthermore, I had Indian Railway experience.
- (4) My training and general character were such that I could be relied on, as I can prove by the certificates and letters in my possession.
- (5) The gentleman who was granted the very important post of District Station Master, Nairobi, was a locally engaged hand like myself, therefore, under the circumstances I do not see why he should have taken preference over me.

As I failed to get satisfaction from the Traffic Manager, there was no other alternative left but to tender my resignation, which was accepted while Martial Law still prevailed by the Administration. Under the circumstances, I should have been relieved of my duties as Station Master of Nakuru on November 27th, 1918, instead of which I received a reply by wire after the expiry of my resignation, informing me that they could not find a suitable man to relieve me. This caused me a lot of inconvenience and loss of time. I was not relieved of my duties until December 9th, 1918.

(6) On my arrival in Nairobi I reported myself for final settlement. Looking through my papers I discovered that the Administration were not granting me my rights, which were as follows:

LEAVE. I was entitled to 250 days leave or 250 days, having completed six years and three months service, i.e. from September 10th, 1912 to November 27th, 1918, and was detained for further period of three months prior to receiving my final settlement.

Out of the 240 days leave which I should have been only granted 154 days, and this I was forced to take in British East Africa, which is certainly not in accordance with the Office Rules and Regulations, if a man be locally engaged or otherwise.

PASSAGE. This was not granted on the grounds of my being a locally engaged hand. The railway Administration did not take it into consideration that I was brought here from India under Martial Law to suit their own convenience, and on the ground that my services were needed in British East Africa.

I emphasised this point particularly to the General Manager, but his decision was to the effect that I was not entitled to it. I therefore, appealed to His Excellency the Acting Governor, who upheld the decision, informing me that he did not see

his way clear to interfering with the decision already given, on words to this effect. However, I decided to pay my own passage which cost me £68.14.0., and sailed from Kilindini in H.M.A.S. "Carisbrook Castle" on April 20th 1919.

In conclusion, I should like to state that I decided to undertake the voyage, which entailed a great deal of expense and loss of time, with the view of having my case represented to the proper Authorities, where I am certain of obtaining a sympathetic hearing and a readjustment on the points mentioned.

- (1) Unfair treatment and loss of seniority, which eventually led up to my resignation.
- (2) Leave due - 26 days.
- (3) Refund of Passage.
- (4) Certificate: This was certainly not in accordance with my file, as I received a character as satisfactory (only). No mention was made of my abilities or work in general. I may add here that during the whole of my Railway service in India and East Africa, I have neither been fined nor cautioned.
- (5) Employment: At present I am out of employment and am experiencing great difficulty in securing an appointment. I therefore, under the circumstances, beg of you to grant me an interview and if possible, either return me back to the Uganda Railway, or offer me an appointment in another Colony in my grade as a Station Master or that of Assistant Traffic Inspector.

Trusting you will excuse me for approaching on your valuable time, and thanking you in anticipation of an early reply for which I shall remain ever grateful.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. C. Parr

[Handwritten signature]

22 Aug 1919

DRAFT

Pair Enq

Sir

I am at to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th July, and to inform you that he is not prepared to interfere with the decision of the Govt of India on the matter of the termination of your appointment in the Colonial Service, and to say

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- Mr. Horne 19.8.19
- Mr. Calver 19.8.19
- Mr. ...
- Mr. ...
- Sir H. ...
- Sir H. ...
- Sir G. ...
- Col. ...
- Lord ...

that he considers that there would be no advantage in an interview.

2 As regards the bar

C.O. 33.1 / 22

leave granted by a terminal
your appointment, you were
E. Africa
~~to be granted~~ amount to 76
of which 17 days were
leave in India - The total period of
leave, a respect of which you were entitled to
please, was about 69 months, not at 3 d
for amount of service it was amount to
207 days leave, as you actually had
42 months leave in India, you appear
have been exceptionally well treated in
being granted 154 days leave at the
of your service. Being a locally engaged
official, you were not entitled to be
in England to free passages -

I am etc

H. J. R.