

COPIES 26

1930

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION FUND

22nd May  
last previous Paper.

Reports discussion in Legislative Council when opinion was unanimously expressed that any scheme which might be introduced should be made retrospective. Draw attention to special cases needing relief.

32170  
August

*W. H. ...*

26 x (1) 22 Dec 1930

1. We can wait for N.Y. calendar, reply to Tel. sent on 24/7/30 for T.T. before taking any action on these papers.
2. I do not think that we can calculate on the suggestion of a retrospective WOPF. Hard cases in the past have had to be dealt with by compassionate grants in the case WOPF comes in. These grants will of course have to cease.
3. As to the cases specifically mentioned...

*W. H. ...* (file 2001 Ed.) - received gratuity of £100 per annum = £300.  
(Note in 9 divided number...  
11/7/30 in file)

Subsequent Paper.

233

Granted gratuity of £57  
on 6th May 2nd

in 1917 - a question of  
whether he had not been  
killed in the war.

but Stanley was in Ery. Regiment  
or it does not seem necessary  
to raise question now of  
further part in respect of  
6 or 10 years.

was sergeant (paid 3000 £)

she said (N. 27 in file) that  
she could not honestly  
really hesitate - as it was  
arranged that a compassionate  
gratuity (£200) was to be  
paid to the two sons, Sergeant  
William W. Sergeant who had  
been dependent on him,  
instead of anything being  
given to her herself.

? wait

Retrospective application <sup>recd</sup> 10.7.20  
of the Pension scheme is a contradiction  
since by the fact of the Grant  
benefit without any contribution  
properly results it upsets the  
scheme altogether. If it is denied

both then it means that is another  
matter, but we for should we go back  
and Oct. 10.7.20 etc

CONFIDENTIAL.

33576

32931

REC  
RD 8 17 20

My Lord,

302

In continuation of my despatch No. 360 of the 14th ultimo and with further reference to Colonel Amery's despatch No. 146 of February 3rd I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the whole question of pensions for officers of the Protectorate Service and the creation of a pension fund for their widows and orphans was discussed in the Legislative Council on the 6th instant.

2. A resolution was passed by 24 votes to 3 that the temporary bonus on all pensions up to £200 per annum should be at the rate of 50%, and on all pensions up to £400 per annum at the rate of 33%. The Council was of opinion that the additional cost of living pressed much more heavily in proportion upon those who were drawing small pensions and that in their case some extra relief was both equitable and necessary. There is no doubt great truth in this and I recommend the proposal for Your Lordship's favourable consideration. The financial effect would be an increase of approximately £800 in the Pensions vote and this can be met from savings on Personal Emoluments owing to many vacancies not yet being filled up.

Inspector  
General of Police.

Registered  
for action  
separately  
ill 4/5/32931

RIGHT HONOURABLE

VISCOUNT MILNER, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., &c., &c.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S. W.

Further resolution was passed by the Council that all payments of sterling pensions to pensioners residing in the Protectorate should be at the rate of 100 rupees to the pound.

This resolution settles the question to which I referred in my Confidential despatch No. 58 of March 26th, 1944 I am afraid that it will be regarded as a hardship by the pensioners concerned as the local purchasing value of the rupee has not risen but rather the reverse. A small saving will be effected on the pensions of Messrs. Mayer Bodeker, Corbett, Enochson, Pfockford, Barton Wright and Miss Stellard.

Registered  
for action  
separately

33574

4. Considerable discussion also took place in the Council on the subject of a pensions fund for widows and orphans and all members were agreed that this was a matter requiring urgent attention the unofficial members being especially insistent on the point. I assured them that Your Lordship was considering the question closely and that an announcement might shortly be expected, as stated in the reply to Brigadier General Surtees in the House of Commons. The opinion was unanimously expressed that any scheme which might be introduced should be made retrospective in order that the widows and orphans of officers who have already died may benefit, special reference being made to the cases of Mrs. Stanley, Mrs. Seargent and Mrs. Ewart. I promised that I would recommend this for Your Lordship's consideration and I have much pleasure in doing so. There is no doubt that a painful impression has been caused both in the service and outside it owing to

W.P.  
7124

in the unfortunate position in which these ladies  
and others similarly situated have been placed.

5. In this connection I attach a copy of a  
letter from the Inspector General of Police  
dealing particularly with Mrs. Ewart's case.

I have the honour to be,

Your Lordship's

humble, obedient servant,

ACTING GOVERNOR.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I have been 305  
 approached by Mrs. Ewart, the wife of the late Superintendent  
 R. A. Ewart, concerning the decision of the Secretary of  
 State consequent on her petition to be granted a pension, of  
 which the copies of the marginally noted correspondence  
 forming an enclosure to this memorandum furnish a full  
 explanation.

2. As the late Mr. Ewart was one of my own Officers, and  
 seeing:-

- (I) That he had served for upwards of 25 years in His Majesty's Colonial Service.
- (II) That the disease from which he died was undoubtedly contracted in a tropical climate while in the service of the State.
- (III) That his widow and child have, as the humble petition of the widow divulges, been left practically without maintenance, - the Protectorate Service being devoid any pension scheme for widows and orphans.
- (IV) That the compassionate gratuity of £300 (say £18 per annum) granted by the Secretary of State to Mrs. Ewart, is not even sufficient to clothe her child.

My conscience dictates it to be my imperative duty to intercede on behalf of his dependents with the object of saving them from the tragic circumstances of comparative destitution, or of being dependent on charity.

3. It will be observed from the petition of Mrs. Ewart that her late husband died in the Lambeth Infirmary, an institution set aside to paupers. True, as the result of the publicity given the matter in the home press in combination with the representations of certain of his brother officers home on leave, the Colonial Office were moved to action. At this stage Mr. Ewart had acquired, however, such implicit faith in the doctor in attendance on him at the Infirmary combined with the knowledge that he was growing rapidly worse, that he expressed a wish

Office of the Inspector General of Police  
Nairobi, 4th May, 1920.

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not

not to be moved to the Nursing Home arranged for by the Colonial Office, with the result that he died in the Lambeth Infirmary on the 21st of the month.

That a Servant of the Colonial Service should, after twenty-five years unblemished and devoted service to the State, have to make the sacrifice of dying in such a institution to save his wife and child from penury by leaving his penurious pension of approximately £25 monthly (which at current day rates equals but £12/10) consequent on the fact that, on his decease, his widow and orphan would receive no pension, is an infamous state of affairs sufficient to raise the conscience of the Nation. In this connection I put up in the form of a further annexure to this memorandum paragraph 32, together with a portion of paragraph 27, extracted from my Inspection Reports on the Uganda Police for the years 1911, and 1912, respectively, as submitted to the Secretary of State in the years in question, since had the telling recommendations contained therein been adopted, Mrs. Ewart and her little one would now be the recipients of what should be their just tribute. Instead, Mrs. Ewart is now faced with the grim position of having to combat the world for the daily bread of herself and child or be dependent on charity, surely a poignant fate for the widow of a deceased Colonial Office Servant with the late Mr. Ewart's record, and who but survived his retirement by three short months.

6. The fate of Mrs. Ewart is, when held in relation to that of Mrs. Bowen, the more scandalous. Concerning Mrs. Bowen (now Mrs. Wilde) whose husband was killed early in

the

C. 533  
 233  
 PUBLIC OFFICE, LONDON

the war when in command of a detachment of Police co-operating with the Imperial Authorities, the Imperial Authorities accorded her a pension both for herself and her children amounting in all to £110 per annum, her husband the late Assistant Superintendent G. E. L. Bowen having served with the Military for less than a month. Thus of the two widows of deceased Police Officers - both being left practically destitute - we find that one of the husband with twenty-five years service receiving a compassionate gratuity of £300, equal to about £18 per annum, and the other whose husband had served for less than a month with the Military Forces a pension, which she retained till her re-marriage, of £110 a year. The penalters in the presence of such facts, the more so seeing that the Force was, on the outbreak of war, embodied as a Military Instrument that Mrs. Bowen's pension was paid from Protectorate, not Imperial Funds, and that Mrs. Wilce as she now is, is in receipt of £48 per annum in respect of pension for her two children.

6. The matter cannot be left as it is, and since it is my duty to champion the cause of Mrs. Ewart, as the widow of one of my deceased Officers, I have to request please that His Excellency will be good enough to forward a copy of this memorandum to the Secretary of State in that the irresistible facts which I have adduced will, I am convinced, be sufficient to cause the Secretary of State in his fair judgement of the case to approve of the grant to Mrs. Ewart of the pension for which she has so justly appealed.

7. In connection with the above, I have felt it to be my duty should my representations meet with failure, to advise Mrs. Ewart to petition Her Majesty as well as both houses of Parliament, since the matter cannot be allowed to drop until justice is done, as a system of pensions for widows and orphans inaugurated in keeping with the Nations trust.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) W. F. S. Edwards.

Brigadier General,  
Inspector General of Police,  
East Africa and Uganda Protectorates.

The Honourable, the Chief Secretary,

N A I R O B I.

Downing Street,  
13th. March 1920.

The Under Secretary of State  
Colonial Office  
London S.W.1.  
3905 E. A.

Gentlemen,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th. March enclosing a petition from Mrs. Ewart praying for the grant to her of a pension from Government Funds on the death of her husband, lately a Superintendent in the East Africa Police.

2. The Secretary of State regrets that it is not possible to comply with her request but he has decided that in the special circumstances of the case, Mrs. Ewart should be granted a compassionate gratuity equivalent to six months salary and war bonus of the late Mr. Ewart at the time of his retirement, and the Crown Agents for the Colonies have accordingly been instructed to pay to her from East Africa Funds the sum of £300 that is, one half of £500 (salary) and £100 (war bonus).

3. I am to explain that this is the utmost assistance that can be granted to Mrs. Ewart from Government Funds.

I am, etc.,  
(Sgd) H. J. READ.

Messrs. Ellis Bickerton Aglionby & Hazel.

45, Trinity Rise,  
Tulsa Hill, S.W. 2

To His Majesty's Under-Secretary  
of State for the Colonies

THE PETITIONER SYBIL GRACE EWART of 45 Trinity  
in the County of Surrey, Widow. SHEETS

1. Your Petitioner is the widow of Raymond Marmaduke Ewart in His Majesty's Colonial Service who died on the 26th. day of February 1920 at the Lambeth Infirmary Kensington at the age of 50 years leaving your Petitioner his widow and one child Sybil Margaret Ewart of the age 10 1/2 years.
2. The death of the said Raymond Marmaduke Ewart was premature from disease contracted as there is every reason to believe during and as a result of his service in a tropical climate and occurring within a few months of his retirement on the 24th. day of November 1919 on which day he attained the age of 50 years a certificate of the death of the said R. M. Ewart is annexed hereto.
3. The said Raymond Marmaduke Ewart had been in His Majesty's Colonial Service for upwards of 25 years having acted as Superintendent of the Zanzibar Police in 1895 and then 1st. and Senior Superintendent of the Police of the East Africa Protectorate serving through the Maruk Rebellion in 1896 and remaining Senior Superintendent to the East Africa Police until his retirement in November 1919.
4. The said Raymond Marmaduke Ewart at the time of his death was entirely dependent on a pension to be fixed on the basis of his salary of £600 per annum as such Superintendent as aforesaid and as a result of his death your Petitioner and her child are left practically without maintenance.

YOUR PETITIONER THEREFORE HUMBLY REQUESTS that a proportion of the pension payable to her late husband in his lifetime may be continued to her with an additional allowance for the maintenance and education of her child.

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C.O. 533  
233  
RIGHT TO COPY  
RE PRODUCE PHOTOGRAPH  
ALL WITHOUT PERMISSION & PAY  
FEE TO THE OFFICE OF THE  
GENERAL

OF

SIGNED FOR THE YEAR 1911

BY

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE

32. I now come to the second point at issue namely, "the revision of the existing Pension Regulations". I venture to think, now that Government encourage their officials to marry, that the pension scheme should be revised so as to include wives and children. Within the last two years the Officials in Uganda have thrice been called upon through the medium of a Government organ - the Official Gazette - to assist the widows of deceased officials. I allude to the cases of Mrs. Thorpe, Mrs. Byns, and Mrs. Pordage, all of whom were left practically destitute. The husbands of Mrs. Thorpe and Mrs. Pordage, as is well known to the Colonial Authorities, have left behind them a long and honourable record of service in Uganda, and the fact that their wives, after having borne the brunt of the hardships of early days in Uganda, are now called upon to earn a living for themselves and families reflects, I venture to state, considerably to the discredit of the conditions under which officials are encouraged to marry. The final summation of the whole question resolves itself into this that the time has come for the creation of a pension scheme which will secure widows and orphans from the hardships of being cast penniless upon the world at a time in their lives when they are most in need of help, and, further, which will assist to increase the present inadequate pensions of officials. The question at issue has received

my most careful consideration with the result that I am led to recommend the following:-

- (I) That the scheme should be one involving the Colonial Service.
- (II) That the fund thus created be for purposes of granting pensions to widows and orphans, and to officials on an improved scale.
- (III) That the pension fund should be in the hand of a financial body resident at the Colonial Office.
- (IV) That the rates of pension as prescribed annually for the officials in the various Colonies should be treated as deferred pay to be placed annually to the credit of the Pension Fund.
- (V) That Officials contribute to the fund annually a sum equal to that of the deferred pay as placed to the credit of the fund by Government on their behalf.
- (VI) That in the case of the death of a bachelor or of a married contributor dying without issue that the Capital sum form part of the estate.

In putting forward these recommendations I do not pretend to have done more than touch upon the salient features of the scheme, since the question is of too great a magnitude to be dealt with to finality in this report, while the minor details of the scheme would be a matter for the financial body to devise. It will I think be admitted that the enormous increase in our national wealth is due, in a great measure, to the large body of Colonial Servants who for years have directed with no mean measure of success our great mass of commerce in the Colonies, thus it seems only equitable that they should participate in the fruit of their labours as is the practice in all large business houses at home. There is hardly a business house of any note to-day that does not give to its employees the privilege of participating in the yearly profits of its business in the form of an annual bonus. The placing of pension rights on the deferred pay basis

as subjects should be on a par with the measures  
also in force to-day. The scheme I advo-  
cate is a business proposition of the most ele-  
mentary character. Viewed from whatever standpoint one  
chooses it is manifestly unjust that widows, children, and  
orphans of Colonial Servants who have rendered long and  
faithful service to their King and Country, should, in  
the hour of need, be dependent upon charity, while it is  
most deplorable that the financial position of Colonial  
Servants when retired from their labours of long and try-  
ing service, should be such as to cause them to live in  
surroundings of a character to which they have not been  
accustomed in their service. My excuse for writing in  
this strain must be held to be due to the fact that the  
salaries of officials allow no putting by for a rainy day,  
and thus I feel bound to protect the interests of those  
of the Police Department who when well on in life, may,  
by virtue of an act of God, be faced with the position of  
having to combat the world for their daily bread. Within  
the small measure of my capacity I have done my best to re-  
present to the Home Authorities how essential it is that  
the Pension Regulations should be enlarged to embody wives  
and children, and I trust that so weighty a matter will  
receive the sympathetic consideration it certainly de-  
serves. I would ask that this matter also may be brought  
directly to the notice of the Right Honourable the Secre-  
tary of State, for the scheme, even allowing for a variety  
in the constitution of the various Crown Colonies, is one  
not difficult to accomplish.

FOR THE YEAR 1912

II

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE

Portion of Paragraph 27.

Concerning pensions I venture the opinion that we have arrived at a period when Colonial Civil Servants have a right to consider that it is the duty of the Government to provide adequately for those who have given the best years of their life to the service of the State, and also that the pension scheme be revised to include wives and children. It is discreditable to the State that the only alley of relief now left to Widows and Orphans is an appeal to the Brother Officers of the deceased relatives many of whom can ill afford to respond, but do so because they recognize that without help the bereft would be completely stranded; while it is equally uncommendable that pensions of Colonial Servants are now such as to cause them on retirement to live in conditions of a nature considerably inferior to those which they enjoyed when in active employment and when they may have a family to place in the World. Within the narrow limits of a single paragraph I am naturally restricted to outlines, but, nevertheless, I trust that what I have said will bring home to the Colonial Department the imperative need of improving the prospects of the whole Service both in respect of advancement and pension rights, as also of widening the scope of the pension regulations to include wives and children.