

J. Courtenay
P A P E R S

RESPECTING

P E N S I O N S

GRANTED TO

CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS FOR EMINENT SERVICES DURING THE
LATE CHARTER;

ALSO

AN ACCOUNT OF PENSIONS ABOVE TWO HUNDRED POUNDS PER
ANNUM NOW PAYABLE BY THE EAST-INDIA COMPANY.

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OF THE PROPRIETORS,

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1814.

P A P E R S

P E N S I O N S

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No. I.

EXTRACT of the MINUTES of the GENERAL COURT of PROPRIETORS,
the 4th May, 1814.

AT A

GENERAL COURT

Of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East-Indies,

Held at their House in Leadenhall Street, on Wednesday, the 4th May, 1814.

THE Chairman acquainted the Court, that it is specially assembled, for the purpose of taking into consideration the proceedings of the Court of Directors on the subject of the expired Pensions.

The preamble to the said proceedings, as approved by the Court of Directors, was then read, stating, that the object of the Court, in forming their resolutions alluded to above, was to bring distinct questions before the Court of Proprietors for their consideration, that each case should stand upon its own merits, leaving to the General Court to determine upon them; and that the Court accordingly submit the said resolutions to the Court of Proprietors, in order that a day may now be fixed for taking the same into consideration.

The resolutions of the Court of Directors were then read, being as follows, viz.

“ At a COURT OF DIRECTORS, held on Wednesday, the 6th April, 1814.

“ The Chairman, pursuant to the notice given by him on the 1st instant,
“ calling the Court's attention to the subject of the expiring pensions, the reso-
“ lutions of the Committee of Correspondence, which were read in Court on
“ that day, were again read.

“ It

No. I.

Minutes of
General
Court,
4th May,
1814

" It was then, on a motion,

" *Resolved unanimously*, That this Court taking into consideration all the
" circumstances of the case of Warren Hastings, Esq., formerly Governor
" General, and the important services rendered by him to the Company, is of
" opinion, that the annuity granted to the said Warren Hastings, for the term
" of twenty-eight years and a half, from the 24th June 1785, of £4,000,
" which expired on the 25th December 1813, be continued to him from that
" period during the term of his natural life, to issue out of the territorial
" revenues of India, and be payable in England.

" On another motion,

" *Resolved*, That this Court recommend to the General Court of Proprietors,
" that the pension of £500 per annum, granted on the 13th October 1796 to
" Sir John Kennaway, for seventeen years and a half from the 29th September
" preceding, in consideration of the important services rendered by him to the
" Company, and which pension expired at Lady-day last, be continued to him
" for the term of his natural life, to issue out of the territorial revenues of India,
" and be payable in England.

" On a further motion,

" *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the General Court of Proprietors,
" that the annuity of £5,000, granted on the 15th January 1801, to Marquis
" Wellesley, for the term of twenty years from 1st September 1798, provided
" the Company's exclusive trade should so long continue, and the territorial
" revenues should so long remain in possession of the Company, in consideration
" of the eminent services rendered by him to the East-India Company, and of
" which period four years and a half will remain unexpired at the commence-
" ment of the new charter, be continued to his Lordship for the term of his
" natural life, to issue out of the territorial revenues of India, and be payable
" in England."

Letter from the Earl of Buckinghamshire to the Chairman, dated the
12th January 1814, was then called for and read.

It was then, on several motions,

Resolved, That the Court of Directors be requested to take into their con-
sideration that part of the letter from Lord Buckinghamshire, which refers to
the

the pension heretofore granted to Lord Melville, and to report their opinion to
the Court of Proprietors.

Resolved, That the paper entitled " An Account of all Pensions above Two
" Hundred Pounds per Annum, now payable by the East-India Company, &c." also the Letter from the Earl of Buckinghamshire, addressed to the Chairman,
dated the 12th of January 1814, and the Resolutions of the Court of Di-
rectors, now submitted for the consideration of this Court, be printed for the use
of the Proprietors.

It was then agreed to adjourn the further consideration of the Pensions to
Wednesday, the 25th instant.

No. II.

AN ACCOUNT of all PENSIONS above Two Hundred Pounds per An-
num, now payable by the EAST-INDIA COMPANY, with the Terms
and Conditions upon which they were respectively granted.

When granted.	To whom granted.	Amount per Annum	Conditions, &c.
1781 7 Nov.	Major Rennell - -	£ 600	The Court, on the 24th April 1778, confirmed the resolution of the Bengal Government, granting unsolicited, an annuity of £400 per annum to Major Rennell, in consideration of sixteen years' service as a Major of Engineers and Surveyor General in Bengal, in the course of which he had been dangerously wounded, exposed to severe fatigues, and his life endan- gered;
	Carried over	600	

When granted.	To whom granted.	Amount per Annum	Conditions, &c.
	Brought over	£ 600	
1785 31 March	Mr. O. Anbury - -	250	gered; and, on the 7th November 1781, the Court increased this annuity to £600 per annum, payable in England.
1793 5 April	Lady Clavering - -	300	Allowed to retire upon a pension of £250 per annum for life, in consideration of his length of service as a Clerk in the Accountant's Office.
1796 15 July	Col. A. M'Pherson -	365	Resolved, That this Court, entertaining a high opinion of the services rendered the Company by Sir John Clavering, Bart., agree to allow Lady Katherine Clavering an annuity of £300 during her life, to commence from Christmas 1792.
Ditto	Lt Col. G. Smith - -	365	
13 Oct.	Sir J. Kennaway, Bart.	500	Allowed to retire on the pay of their rank, in consequence of their being prevented from returning to their rank in India by the existing regulations, and by a due regard to the rights of officers now in the service.
	Carried forward	2,380	In consequence of the high sense the Court entertained of his important services, in negotiating a treaty between the Company and His Highness the Nizam against Tippoo

When granted.	To whom granted.	Amount per Annum	Conditions, &c.
	Brought over	£ 2,380	
1798 8 Aug.	Lord Hobart - - - (now Earl of Buckinghamshire.)	1,500	Tippoo Sultaun; in having accomplished the object of the mission upon which he was sent by the Marquis Cornwallis to the Court of Hydrabad, to demand the cession of the Guntoor Circar; and for services, as Deputy to a Congress assembled in the vicinity of Seringapatam, for settling the preliminaries and adjusting the articles of the definitive treaty with Tippoo Sultaun, for which latter service he never received any salary, emolument, or reward. Granted for seventeen years and a half from Michaelmas last, if he should live so long.
			Resolved, That it having been deemed expedient, under special circumstances, to revoke the succession of the Right Honourable Robert Lord Hobart to the Government General, to which he stood appointed by a vote of the Court of 24th December 1793, the Court think it incumbent upon them, under all the circumstances above alluded to, to bestow some mark of their favour upon his Lordship, as a testimony of their approbation
	Carried over	3,880	B

When granted.	To whom granted.	Amount per Annum	Conditions, &c.
	Brought over	£ 3,880	approbation of his conduct in general; and therefore, that a pension of £1,500 per annum be granted to the said Right Honourable Robert Lord Hobart, payable out of the territorial revenues in India, for the period of the Company's exclusive trade, if he shall so long live.
1801. 15 Jan.	The Marquis Wellesley	5,000	<i>Memorandum.</i> — The Earl of Buckinghamshire has declined to receive this pension so long as he shall continue to hold the office of President of the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India. Resolved, That in reward for the eminent services of the Most Noble the Marquis Wellesley (the present Governor General) his Lordship be requested to accept an annuity of £5,000, to issue out of the territorial revenues in India, for the term of twenty years, provided the Company's exclusive trade shall so long continue, and the territorial revenue shall so long remain in possession of the Company: to commence from the 21st September 1798, being the day on which the treaty with the Soubah of the Decan was concluded, and that
	Carried over	8,880	

When granted.	To whom granted.	Amount per Annum	Conditions, &c.
	Brought over	£ 8,880	that the same be paid to his Lordship, his executors, administrators, or assigns, for the term aforesaid.
1801. 18 Feb.	Lord Melville - -	2,000	That, as a mark of the great esteem in which the Court hold the eminent services rendered by the Right Honourable Henry Dundas to the Company, he be requested to accept, during the existence of the Company's present limitation of their exclusive trade, of an annuity, equal to the salary which he received as President of the Board of Commissioners, viz. £2,000 per annum, and that the same be paid to him, his executors, administrators, or assigns.
1802. 27 Jan.	Mr. Wm. Tomkins -	450	Mr. Tomkins, late Deputy Master Attendant at Calcutta, was permitted to draw in England the amount of the pension which he received, under the usual regulations.
1804. 28 Dec.	Mrs. Maxwell - -	300	Resolved, That Mrs. Maxwell, widow of Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell, of His Majesty's 19th Regiment of Dragoons, who fell gloriously at the head of the cavalry at the battle of Assye, leaving Mrs.
	Carried over	11,630	B 2 Maxwell

When granted.	To whom granted.	Amount per Annum	Conditions, &c.
	Brought over	£ 11,630	Maxwell thereby wholly destitute of any provision, be granted an annuity of £300 during her widowhood, to commence from the 23d April 1803, the day on which Colonel Maxwell fell, as a mark of the high sense the Court entertain of the important service rendered to the Company and the nation by that gallant officer.
1805 30 Jan.	Mr. P. Braham - - -	500	Allowed him in compensation for not continuing him in the rank of Deputy Governor of Bencoolen (to which situation he had succeeded as the Senior Member of Council), it being impossible, in the reduced state of that settlement, to appoint him to that office.
22 Feb.	Sir N. Dance - - -	500	Resolved, That this Court is desirous of expressing the high sense which they entertain of the skill and courage which were displayed, and of the signal victory which was obtained on the 15th November last, by the ships of the East-India Company, under the spirited and judicious command of Sir Nathaniel Dance, and does therefore confer upon him, instead of the annuity of £300 proposed by
	Carried over	12,630	

When granted.	To whom granted.	Amount per Annum	Conditions, &c.
	Brought over	£ 12,630	by the Court of Directors, an annuity of £500.
1809 7 April	Mrs. Lacam - - -	600	Granted her, provided she survives her husband. An annuity was originally allowed Mr. Lacam (who was a Projector of Docks, &c. in Bengal) in consequence of the recommendation of the Bengal Government, who stated their opinion, that he should be allowed £600 per annum, and his wife £400 per annum, if she should survive him, as a compensation for having devoted thirty years of his life to the prosecution of an object useful to the public, and in consideration of his losses and disappointments, by the resumption of a grant he held, under certain privileges, for the formation of a place called New Harbour, &c. This annuity was increased, the 7th April 1809, to £1000 per annum for himself, and £600 to his wife, if she should survive him.
16 May	Sir John M ^c Pherson, } Bart. - - - }	1,000	Allowed to Sir John M ^c Pherson, late Governor General of India, on condition of his assigning over to the Company his demand on the Nabob of Arcot, as a security for the
	Carried over	14,230	

When granted.	To whom granted.	Amount perAnnum	Conditions, &c.
1812 20 March	Brought over Captain Robert Hay -	£ 14,230 400	the sum of £10,000 advanced him by the Court in 1805. Resolved, That in consideration of the circumstances of the case of Captain Robert Hay, late Commander of the Astell, and the sufferings he has undergone from the effects of the wound he received in defending his ship and the Company's property, he be allowed a pension of £400 per annum, to commence from the 29th September last, and to continue during the time he may remain unemployed.
21 June	Mr. H. Dinning - -	260	Allowed them under an Act of Parliament passed in 1802, which provided that those Bencoolen servants who objected to be transferred to Madras, should retire on the pay of their rank.
Ditto	Mr. J. Griffiths - -	260	
Total		£15,150	

East-India House,
17th March 1814.

(Signed)

CHARLES CARTWRIGHT.

No. III.

LETTER from the Right Honourable the EARL of BUCKINGHAMSHIRE,
to the CHAIRMAN.

SIR,

India Board, January 12, 1814.

Understanding, from the conversation I had with you and the Deputy Chairman, that the Court of Directors have not yet come to any determination respecting the continuance of the Pensions granted to Lord Wellesley, Lord Melville and myself, I consider it my duty to state, as distinctly as I can, my sentiments upon the subject.

With reference to the grant to Lord Wellesley, I should ill discharge the functions of the office I have the honour to hold, if I did not convey to you my decided opinion, that no man can read the records of the East-India Company, during the period that Lord Wellesley filled the situation of Governor General of India, without being impressed with the deepest sense of his eminent services; and whatever differences of opinion might have occasionally arisen between him and the Court of Directors upon particular points, the exertions he made, the talents he displayed, and the benefits he rendered, were of a nature to entitle him to a signal and substantial reward, and that the continuance of his pension would not only be an act of liberal and wise policy, but of strict justice on the part of the East-India Company.

The pension granted to the executors of the late Lord Melville is connected with circumstances which it may be a little difficult to discuss, but which, in order to make myself clearly understood, I cannot entirely overlook.

Upon an examination into the state of the late Lord Melville's affairs at his death, it was found that his property was inadequate to the payment of his debts by a very large sum, for which the present Lord Melville has made himself responsible.

Into this voluntary engagement he was induced to enter, at great personal inconvenience to himself and family, his property being settled, from a sense of what was due, particularly to the high stations his father had held in public life, and to avoid the discredit that would attach upon his memory, had his debts remained unsatisfied.

Under

No. III.

Earl of
Buckingham-
shire's Letter.

No. III.

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 Earl of
 Buckingham-
 shire's Letter.

Under an impression that the extension of the grant to the late Lord Melville to his executors might have been made, amongst other considerations, in the contemplation of his debts, and the inadequate means his property afforded of paying them, I venture to state these circumstances to you, and to submit for your consideration (the sum of £ 20,000 being still unprovided for) the propriety of proposing to the Court, that the grant should be continued for a period that would discharge that sum.

If the estimation in which I hold the late Lord Melville's services to the East-India Company be ill founded, the proposition will have little weight with your Court; but if I justly appreciate them, I am confident that the suggestion I have made, will not fail to receive that attention to which it appears entitled.

With respect to the pension granted to myself, I should observe, that upon my appointment to the office of President of the Board of Controul, I intimated my intention to forego the receipt of the pension during the period of my continuance in that office, and I certainly was determined, at all events, to persevere in that intention.

At the same time, I must candidly acknowledge, that adverting to the terms upon which the Charter was renewed, it did not occur to me that any question was likely to have arisen upon the subject of the existing pensions: as, however, it has arisen, I must request that the business, as far as my pension is concerned, may not be agitated at present.

In the exercise of my official duties, I ought not, in the opinion of any man, to be liable to the imputation of acting under feelings of personal disappointment, or open to the charge of disregarding an obligation conferred.

If the Court should be so disposed, let them take up the subject whenever I leave the office of President of the Board of Controul; they will then, as at present, have their own records to refer to, for the grounds upon which the pension was originally granted, and they will enter upon the consideration of it under circumstances wholly free from the objection that has presented itself to my mind, and I would add, on that account, far more satisfactory to my own feelings.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient faithful humble servant,

Robert Thornton, Esq.
 &c. &c. &c.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.