

A C C O U N T S .

(Pensions.)

C.S.

1936.

No. 86/36.

Magistrate, S. Georgia.

SUBJECT.

1936.

6th April.

PENSIONS OF OFFICERS SERVING IN THE
DEPENDENCIES.

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

1-3

Letter from the Magistrate, South Georgia, of 6/4/36.

1. E.

Refs ① to ③ submitted.

2. I suggest that a reply might be sent to the Magistrate South Georgia stating that a new draft Pension Ordinance is being prepared for consideration and that the points raised in his letter will receive attention.

P. A.
12/5/36.

12/5/36

④ Minutes to Magistrate, S. Georgia of 3/1/36.

P.A.
22/9/36

Subsequent Paper.

C.5/56

Magistrate's Office,
South Georgia.

6th April, 1936.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor, a plea for the revision of the Pensions Ordinance in respect of the age limit for retiring and the basis of calculation of pension as far as it affects South Georgia.

3. I am of opinion that service here is infinitely more arduous than in the majority of Colonies and I do not think it unreasonable to suggest that two years service here should rank as the equivalent of 5 years in more favourably placed Colonies, for the following reasons. The climate though rigorous is not unhealthy inasmuch as there is no endemic disease but the continuous low temperatures both in summer and in winter must in time leave their mark on the constitution of the individual. This I believe is inevitable. The winters are long and last from seven to eight months with snow frequently eight to ten feet deep. The summers are actually as severe as winters/

The Honourable

The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley.

winters in the United Kingdom, for no month passes without several falls of snow. The temperature is low throughout the whole of the year and I question if any habitable part of the world can shew such a consistently low mean temperature. The following statement covering the past six years confirms this contention:-

	<u>MEAN.</u>					<u>HIGHEST MEAN</u>	
1930	34.4	degrees F.	...	...	...	42.0	degrees F.
1931	35.3	do.	...	...	...	40.0	do.
1932	35.1	do.	...	...	...	40.7	do.
1933	35.0	do.	...	...	...	41.1	do.
1934	35.1	do.	...	...	...	41.1	do.
1935	35.3	do.	...	...	...	40.9	do.

Average Mean over past 6 years... 34.7 degrees F.

Average Highest Mean over past 6 years 40.9 -do-

Sunshine is rare in summer and there is practically none during the winter. This is due to a great extent to the high mountain ranges intervening. For two to three months, according to position, no sunlight ever touches the houses of the Government Station during the winter. Then there are the effects of a monotonous existence, monotony of nature; there is little vegetation and no trees, nothing but ice covered mountains and glacier filled valleys. The lack of social amenities and knowledge of the outside world for months at a time. On occasion no mails have been received for 5 months or more. This must in time have a definite mental effect which in time must react to the detriment of one's physical well being. Further there is the extensive use of preserved foods, the use of which is inevitable, and the scarcity of fresh vegetables. All vegetables must be imported, none can be grown, and due to the lack of communication a scarcity

of this commodity must occur all too frequently. The lack of vitamins as a result of the scarcity of vegetables and fresh foods must also have a serious adverse effect on the constitution.

3. I think that the foregoing constitutes reasonable grounds for the revision sought in a place which is definitely abnormal in every way. I would add that Medical Officers here with whom I have discussed the effects of conditions in South Georgia are in complete agreement with the views I have expressed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

L. Barlas
Magistrate.

No. 36/36.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number and the date may be quoted.)

MINUTE.

31st July, 19 36.

From

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

To The Magistrate,

SOUTH GEORGIA.

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th of April, 1936, and to inform you that a new draft Pensions Ordinance is being prepared for consideration and that the points raised in your letter will receive attention.


Acting Colonial Secretary.