

E. A. MERRILL
B. GUNT AFR. PAGE
N^o 53800

C. O.
33200
73500

207

Cost of living in December

has increased at an average

in December

in December

in December 1905 (2490/05)
in December 1906 (2490/06)
in December 1906 (2490/06)
in December 1906 (2490/06)

The Agency has been reformed under
the measure of ~~1905~~ ¹⁹⁰⁶ and
Mr. Simon is stated to be the capable
head of a very efficient
office, it can no longer be held that
he is not the reason for his post.

(3) Mr. Simon has brought forward additional
evidence in support of his statement
that cost of living has greatly increased
in December of late years.

Copy for Mr. C. O.
C. O. 33200

160/08

RTD

The notes I have underlined seem to show that Mr. Swanson's work, though it has greatly increased since the Agency was started, is not in itself so enormous as to justify any increase in his emoluments.

It must also be remembered that Mr. Swanson's requirements are not affected by the fact that he is a married man with a son at school working for Woolwich of the I.P.E. (see price of his letter - or 25948/05).

As far as the Agency part of his work is no business to incur any further expenditure for it is a very expensive though quite necessary office, and its cost is well justified by the extent of the work which it performs.

On Mr. Swanson's retirement, whenever that may be, it should be possible to reduce the present salary of his appointment by £100 or more, and that of his assistant (see my minute on Mr. Bowring's report on 22/11) so I should not make any increase in it now.

[It is considered that there is a case for increasing it the increase should be £100 per year of a net allowance of £120 per year, which would benefit Mr. Swanson and have the additional effect of not increasing Mr. Swanson's emoluments.]

10/10/05

F.T.

W. Andrews.

In view of the ~~present~~ cost of
the present arrangements for working
the Agency I agree that Mr S's
Expenditure sh^d. not be increased.

H. J. R.

22/11

W. J. S.
at once

35

33800
Recd

Coff
Coff

ALL CORRESPONDENCE
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
THE SECRET GENERAL IN 1904
AND NOT TO THE
THE LETTERS BEING QUOTED.

BRITISH PROTECTORATES IN AFRICA
ADMINISTERED BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE
APOLLO STREET, BOMBAY.

5th September 1907.

Cost of Living in Bombay.

Sir,

With reference to the question of the increased cost of living, of late years in India generally and more particularly in Bombay, I was previously pleased to give full expression to my personal opinion owing to the difficulty of obtaining positive and authoritative outside evidence of the fact, although complaints have been general for some time past and I have felt it sharply myself. I have been able to procure official testimony that it is a reality beyond question and I have the honour to transmit it herewith for the information of the Earl of Elgin.

1. A copy of the Review of the Trade of India in 1906-1907 published by the Government of India is appended and I would invite reference to the paragraph on page 78 headed "Prices" and the chart adjoining from which it will be seen that taking the year 1866 as a basis, represented by 100, the mean price of 20 staple commodities has risen since 1903 from 98 to 116 in 1904. The chart shows the index numbers for the past 46 years the highest figure touched prior to 1903 being 107½ in the year 1866.

2. I have obtained copies of the price lists published by the Superintendent of Markets by order of the Municipal Commissioner of the City of Bombay, of the 23rd of August 1904 and the 23rd August 1907 from which I have taken 80 staple articles of domestic consumption. A Table is enclosed showing the

10/23/07

2.

increases in these, the mean increase amounting to say 42%.-

4. The Secretary of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway has courteously favoured me with a copy of Resolution No. 52 of their Departmental Meeting No. 9 of the 21st December 1906 of which a copy is annexed.- This shows that the higher cost of living in Bombay is admitted by them and that in consequence the pay of Havildars, Naiks, Sepoys and Kamals in their employ was increased from the 1st January 1907.-

5. A copy of Government Resolution No. 2664 of the 19th June 1907 is also annexed showing that the Government of Bombay recognize the position and are taking action in the matter.-

6. That house rent has risen considerably has already been reported.-

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant.

J. L. ...
Agent General.

Under Secretary of State,

Colonial Office,

L O N D O N .