

Kingston,

Jamaica.

24<sup>th</sup> June,

To

The Right-Honourable

Joseph Chamberlain, M.P.,

His Majesty's Secretary of State

for the Colonies.

Sir,

I have the honour to bring to your notice the following facts, and to venture to request that you will be so good as to give consideration to my representation. The whole case is well-known to Mr. Olivier, both as a Governor of the Institute of Jamaica and as Colonial Secretary of the Island.

i. In the autumn of 1890, I answered an advertisement in the "Athenaeum" for a Secretary and Librarian for the Institute of Jamaica. In December I was appointed, and in February 1891 I entered upon my duties. The appointment, which was made by the Board of Governors of the Institute, subject to the approval of the Governor of Jamaica, was for three years renewable at the end of that time. The salary was £500 per annum. In February 1894 on the expiration of the three years the engagement was, with the approval of

the

, renewed for another three years, and  
in May 1897 it was, with the same approval,  
renewed for five years.

Correspondence - commencing with a letter  
to the Colonial Secretary of the 20<sup>th</sup> June 1901  
to the Board of Governors of the Institute, and  
ending with one from that officer on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
of March 1902 (a copy of which correspondence  
I can produce if desired) - resulted in the  
Government - refusing to approve of a further  
renewal of the appointment - on the same terms,  
reducing the total vote to the Institute by 32  
per cent. and refusing to approve of the  
appropriation of more than £300 a year from  
the reduced vote for the salary of the Secretary  
and Librarian, allowing it to be supplemented  
to the extent of £50, but not more, from certain  
"Private Funds", not arising from taxation, at  
the disposal of the Governors of the Institute,  
and making the appointment, moreover,  
dependent each year on the vote of the  
Legislature: in spite of the fact that the  
Board wished, even with its reduced vote,  
to offer me a renewal of my appointment,  
during good behaviour or for a term of  
years, at the reduced salary of £450 per  
annum, and stated that it regarded the  
heavy reduction in my salary and possible  
expiring of my appointment as "morally  
an injustice" to me.

iii. A perusal of this correspondence

will

will show that - the only cause for the 8%  
for the worse which was made in the let-  
my appointment - in 1902 was the temporary  
in the government - finances which necessitate  
retrenchment - His Excellency the Governor expressed  
his "agreement - in the view of the Governor of  
the value of Mr Cundall's services, if the colony  
could afford them", and stated that "it would  
be most desirable that his services should be  
retained if financial exigencies were not  
suppressing and imperative."

iv. While the Government held that retrenchment  
could not take the form of a reduction of the salaries  
of the civil service, the salary of my appointment, as  
not being one strictly in the civil service, though  
it is in many ways subject to the restrictions  
under which civil servants are placed, was  
reduced by 30 per cent. I submit that -  
now that the Government finances have recovered  
from the temporary depression, *ex debito*  
*justitiae*, the restoration of my appointment  
to its original footing should receive early  
consideration.

v. I would further submit that - whilst it  
would be a hardship for any public official  
to hold his office on such a precarious  
footing as that on which since 1902  
I have held mine, it is peculiarly hard  
in the case of such an appointment as  
mine. The special qualifications, apart -  
from those of a general character  
required

... it - for the holder for but few appoint-  
... the smaller colonies; and the longer  
... remains out of England the less  
... he has of getting an appointment there.  
... is to say the holder's chance of obtaining  
another appointment in the colonies is very  
small, whilst his chance of getting employ-  
ment in England each year becomes less.

vi. In these circumstances, and in view of  
the fact that I have given upwards of twelve  
years of my life to the service of the colony (the  
finances of which are now in a much better  
position than when the reduction was  
made), I should be very grateful if either  
my appointment at the Institute of Jamaica  
could be put upon a permanent basis with  
a salary more commensurate with that which  
I have received in the past, or I might be  
appointed in some other colony to a  
post of a status equal to that which  
I held here prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1902.

vii. I may add that I am proceeding to  
England on leave of absence from the 30<sup>th</sup>  
instant, and that my address in London  
will be care of The Royal Colonial Institute.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant -

Frank Jurdall