

The Machinery of Empire

Managing the Post-War
Transition in Colonial India

CRIMINOLOGICAL INSIGHTS
BY DR. MRIDUL SRIVASTAVA

— Summer 1919 | United Provinces | Naini Tal —

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
UNITED PROVINCES,

DEPARTMENTS (EXCEPT THE ACCOUNTANT
(), COMMISSIONERS OF DIVISIONS, DISTRICT
OFFICERS AND DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGES,
UNITED PROVINCES,

Dated Naini Tal, 21st July, 1919.

To state that the Government of India have issued
regarding the question of granting travelling
to servants and private individuals who are
to another for inspection by the proper
as candidates for an appointment, vis :—

a journey performed by a Government servant
allowance may be given under the ordinary
Civil Service Regulations, provided the Head of
Department certifies that the journey was undertaken
in the best of the public service.

For private individuals does not come within the
the Civil Service Regulations and appointments

1919 Administrative Directives: Pay, Allowances, and Peace in the United Provinces



TRAVEL AND LEAVE ALLOWANCES



Travelling Allowance Standards
Government servants follow standard Civil Service Regulations; private individuals require specific Local Government sanction.



Restrictions on Duty Allowance
Permission for duty allowance during privilege leave must be granted by the Local Government.



SPECIAL PAY AND PEACE MEASURES



Daily Wages for Peace Holiday
Workers on daily wages received pay for the 19th July 1919 peace signing holiday.



Continuation of Special War Allowance
Details regarding the salary brackets for continued allowances are provided in the data table below.

Pay Range (Per Mensem)	Allowance Status	Condition
Rs. 30 to Rs. 50	Continued	Post-Peace Treaty (June 1919)
Under Rs. 30	Not Specified	Subject to previous orders
Over Rs. 50	Not Specified	Subject to previous orders

Purpose: Outlines the specific salary bracket affected by the Special War Allowance extension.



G. B. Lambert
G.B. LAMBERT, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

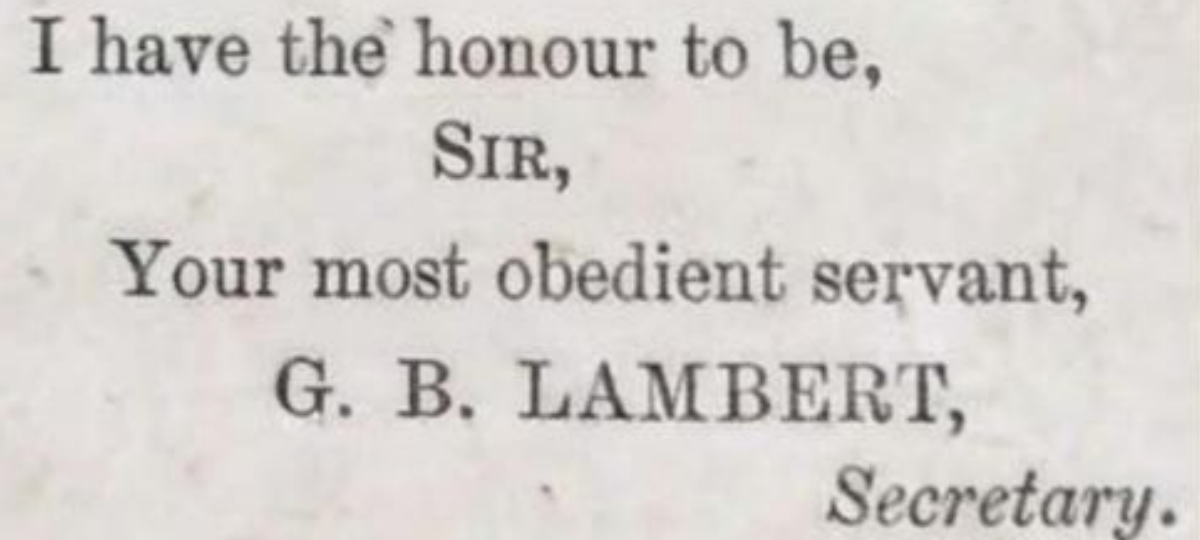
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Transition to Peace

June 28, 1919:
Treaty of
Versailles signed.

July 1919: The
United Provinces
government at Naini
Tal (the summer
capital) scrambles
to issue directives
directive adapting the
colonial state to
peacetime.

The Bureaucratic Nexus



I have the honour to be,
SIR,
Your most obedient servant,
G. B. LAMBERT,
Secretary.

All presented directives originate from the desk of the Hon'ble Mr. G.B. Lambert, I.C.S., Secretary to Government, acting as the central nervous system for the province's transition.

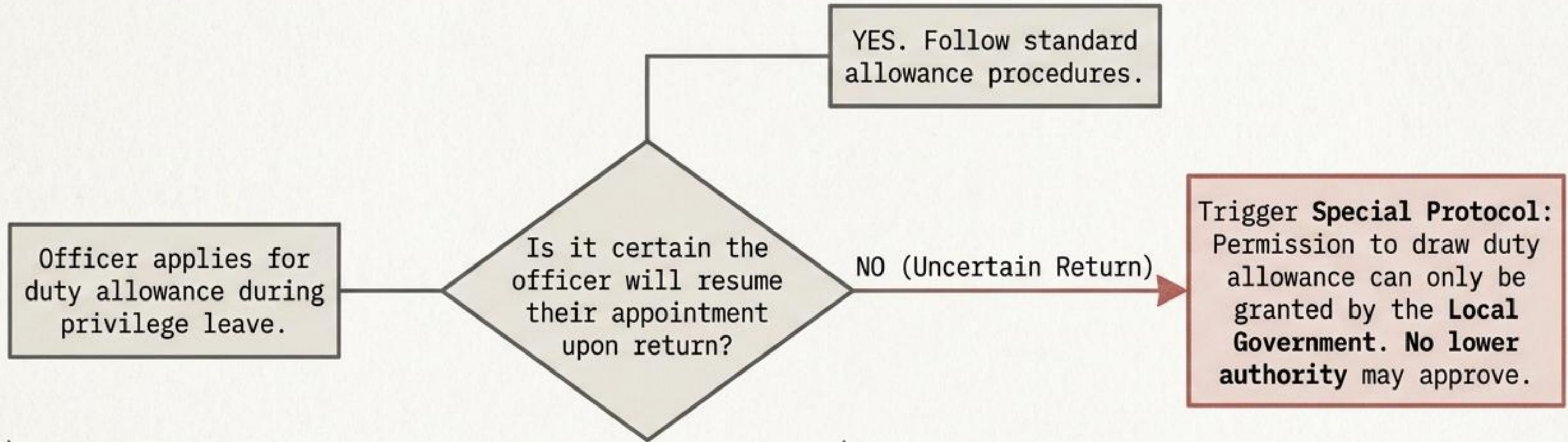
The Travel Allowance Divide

authority before selection as candidates for an appointment, viz :—

- (1) In the case of a journey performed by a Government servant travelling allowance may be given under the ordinary rules of the Civil Service Regulations, provided the Head of the department certifies that the journey was undertaken in the interest of the public service.

	Government Servants	Private Individuals
Governing Framework →	Governed by ordinary rules of the Civil Service Regulations.	Excluded from Civil Service Regulations; treated as 'contingent charges'.
Approval Authority →	Head of the relevant department.	Competence of the Local Government only.
Standard of Discretion →	Granted provided the journey is 'undertaken in the interest of the public service.'	Must be 'used sparingly and with reference to the merits of each particular case.'

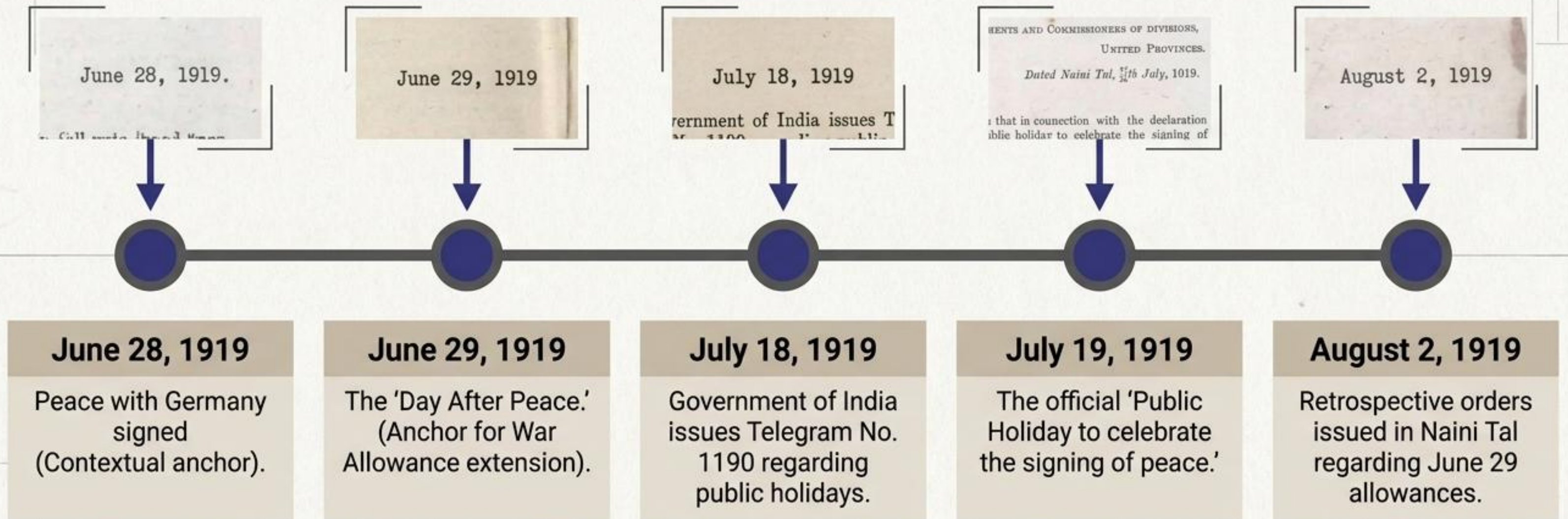
The 'Uncertain Leave' Protocol



2. I am therefore to explain that permission to draw duty allowance during privilege leave, ~~and~~ ~~an~~ ~~officer~~ regarding allowance during privilege leave, in the case of an officer regarding whom it is not certain whether he will return to his appointment or not, should not be granted by any authority lower than the Local Government.

The Government of India mandated that uncertainty of return must be treated with the same financial caution as a guaranteed departure.

The Bureaucratic Echo: A Chronology of Delay



➔ **Key Insight:** The colonial government operated on a delayed bureaucratic echo. Directives managing the economic reality of June were still being drafted, debated, and distributed well into August.

I AM directed to state that in connection with the declaration of the 19th July, 1919, as a public holiday to celebrate the signing of peace, Government has been pleased to sanction the payment of wages for that day to all persons employed on a daily wage who would otherwise suffer a loss of wage on account of the holiday.

“...Government has been pleased to sanction the payment of wages for that day to all persons employed on a daily wage who would otherwise suffer a loss of wage on account of the holiday.”

The Directive

Circular No. 2411/X-226
declaring July 19th a
public holiday.

The Economic Protection

A mandated holiday meant a missed day of labour. The state intervened to ensure celebrating peace did not equal financial penalty for the lowest tier of the colonial economy.

I AM directed to refer to the correspondence ending with G. O. no. 535/X—250, dated 3rd February, 1919, and to state that the special war allowance granted to all whole-time Government servants on pay exceeding Rs. 30 but not exceeding Rs. 50 per mensem will not cease with effect from 29th June, 1919, the day after peace with Germany was signed, but will be continued until further orders.

The 'Special War Allowance' Extension

Target Demographic

Whole-time Government servants earning between Rs. 30 and Rs. 50 per mensem.

The Original Rule

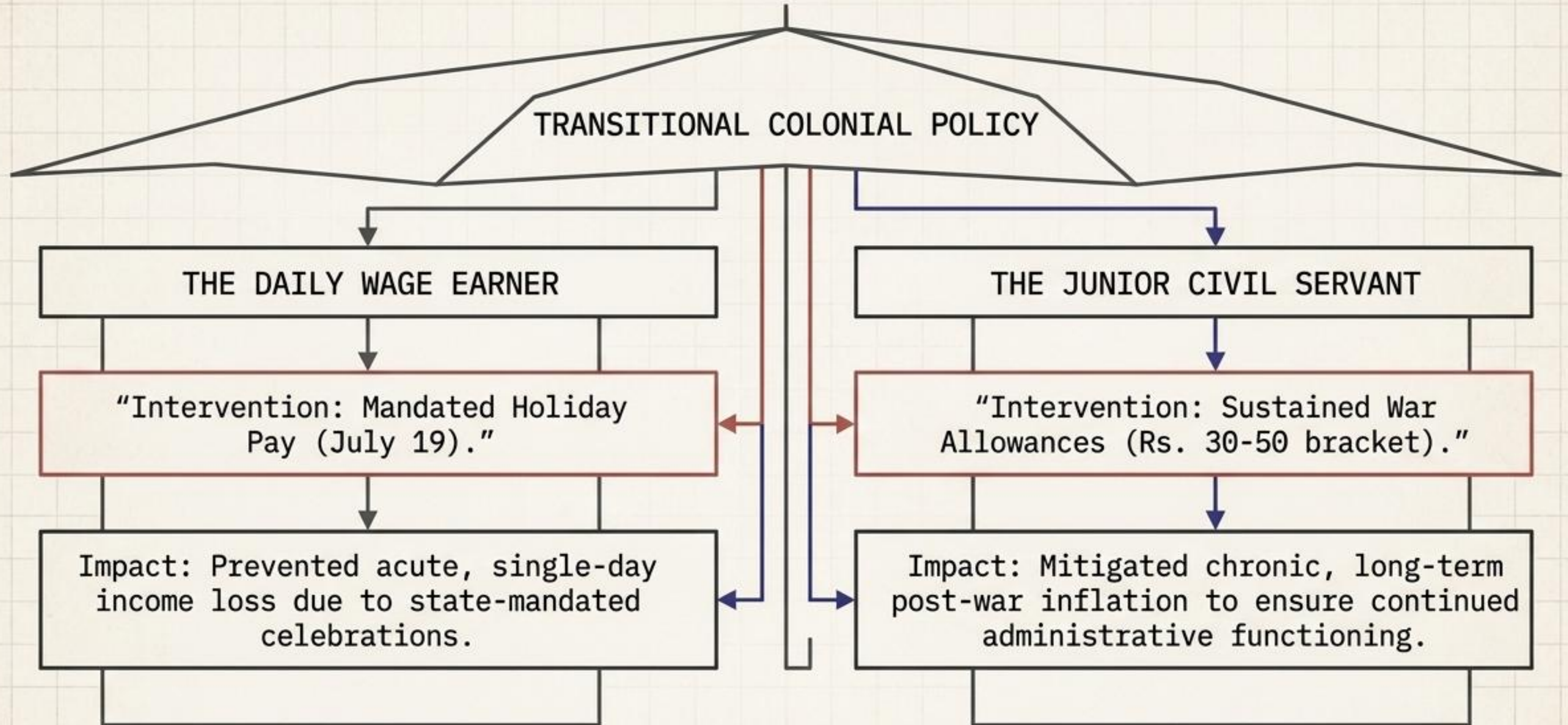
War allowances were theoretically tied to wartime conditions and set to expire.

The August 2nd Revision

The allowance "will not cease with effect from 29th June, 1919, the day after peace with Germany was signed, but will be continued until further orders."

A pragmatic admission by the state that the economic impact of the war (inflation, cost of living) did not magically disappear the day a treaty was signed in Versailles.

The Economics of Peace



Synthesis Insight: Post-war colonial policy was defined by pragmatism, not just celebration. The government actively managed the economic transition to prevent financial distress among the foundational layers of both the labour force and the civil administration.

The Machinery Runs on Ink

Behind the grand geopolitical narrative of the 1919 peace treaties lay the daily reality of colonial administration: a vast machinery of ledgers, stamps, and circulars designed to manage the precise cost of a public holiday or a railway journey.

‘Forwarded to all Superintendents of Jails in the U.P. for information.’

