Number 30
Date 14-8
M.R.O. 1—82 406—22-11-90

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works **DEPARTMENT.**

Com. 22-9-57

G.O. No. 1775 Press Mis.

37-85

Dated 17 — 9 — 1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers.

No. 37. Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 4th September 1857, No. 3477.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant J. G. RYVES, District Engineer of Trichinopoly; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated 29th August 1857, No. 617.

SIR,

With reference to Extract Minutes Consultation No. 1559, under date 11th August, accompanying your Circular No. XCVIII, of the 18th Instant, (received yesterday) I have the honor to request that before the step ordered by Government is actually taken in this District, a re-consideration of the order may be solicited.

2. The Talook Maistries of the old department have been all absorbed, being fit and respectable men, there remain the Gomastahs and Kurnums.

3. Now if these Gomastahs are to be no longer continued separate from the new establishment the result will be that by the Notification of the 28th January the Public Works establishment in this District, so far as lower Subordinates are concerned, will be reduced instead of increased, whereas, I believe, the latter was intended by Government at the time.

4. At the date of the transfer of the executive in this District to me (1st January 1857) there were on the old Maramut establishment.

1 Superintendent ..... Now Assistant Overseer.
1 Hoozoor Maistry.....1st class 1st grade Sub Overseer.
4 Talook Maistries..... 2nd do. Sub Overseers.
6 Gomastahs..... still Gomastahs employed in keeping accounts of sets of works.

1 Hoozoor Gomastah
2 Kurnums. } Office

5. The Superintendent, Hoozoor Maistry, and 4 Talook Maistries have been absorbed, leaving, if we turn out the present occupants of the situations, only 5 Vacancies, so that the strength of the Subordinate establishment will be less than it was under the old system by one individual and its personnel will be identical with what it formerly was, we shall be compelled to recur to tamil accounts and the former system of keeping them as I find among brahmins a determination not to adopt the new system of accounts.

6. The establishment of lower Subordinates in this District will then be composed of 6 illeterate Marrhatta brahmins and the remaining five, though good men, yet totally unacquainted with English and still so deeply imbued with their old habits as to make it difficult for them to keep their accounts clear and above board, there will be no introduction of new blood, no knowledge of English, and no young men of respectable education, which, I am convinced, must be introduced if the new Department is to have a fair chance of success.

7. If the order of Government be carried out in this district, the change effected by the Notification of the 28th January last will only amount to this that the three Talook Maistries and Gomastahs should be called Sub Overseers and that one of the Gomastahs should be pensioned.

8. I trust that the tone of this letter will not be considered intemperate, but I feel that the Credit of the Department is at stake, for were the order carried out we should in this district have a weaker and more inefficient and not more honest Subordinate establishment than before the 1st January, but without the advantage of nine Executive Officers with immense local power and with numerous unscrupulous instruments to execute their commands.

Resolved in reply to the foregoing letter No. 617, dated 29th Ultimo, to inform the District Engineer of Trichinopoly, that reference to Government has already been made on the sub-

ject of the order contained in Extract Minutes Consultation No. 1559, of the 11th Idem regarding the entertainment of the old Maramut Establishment servants with reference to their qualifications.

2. The fixed Establishment allotted to Trichinopoly though its strength is temporarily reduced under the present restriction on expenditure consists of 6 Upper and 24 Lower Subordinates which number, not to be exceeded without special sanction, is considered amply sufficient for all the present duties of the District.

3. Resolved also that a copy of these Proceedings and of the District Engineer's representations on which they are founded, be respectfully submitted for the information of Government.

(Signed) C. E. FABER, Colonel,
Chief Engineer.

No. 38. From Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 7th September 1857, No. 3515.

SIR,

Copy of a letter from the District Engineer Cuddapah No. 707, dated 31st August 1857.

Numerous petitions having been received in this Office, from men who were formerly Maramut Gomastahs in the Collector's Establishments, for employment as Sub Overseers in the Department of Public Works, I have the honor to bring the questions before Government, as to the employment of these persons, if unfit for the duties required of them, under the new system.

2. With this view, I beg to submit copy of a letter from the District Engineer of Cuddapah, relating to four men, formerly Maramut Gomastahs, who after trial by Lieutenant Hemery, wered discharged, as unqualified for the duties of Sub Overseer, although in Lieutenant Hemery's opinion, quite fit for the Revenue Department; but for whose employment, the Collector does not appear to have made any provision.

3. The truth is, that Maramut Gomastahs generally, were mere Accountants, versed in the Native system of accounts, but neither accustomed to, nor capable of learning the practice of this Department, while their ignorance of English, is a very serious aggravation of their inefficiency. It appears to me that these men are very much more suited for the Revenue branch of the service, than they ever can be for that of Public Works; and I cannot but hope, that the Collectors under whom they have so long served, may be requested to provide them with fitting situations as occasion offers.

4. I have already forwarded copy of one from Lieutenant Ryves on the same subject, and I beg the matter may receive the early consideration of Government, with the understanding that I entirely concur in the views of the District Engineers.

Letter from Lieutenant E. HEMERY, District Engineer of Cuddapah; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated 31st August 1857, No. 707 of 1857-58.

SIR,

I have the honor to return the Petition of Venketakistniah, late Sub Overseer in this District, which you referred to me for report, on the 28th Instant.

• Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer D. P. W. dated 27th June 1857, No. 1582.

2. Venketakistniah was not thrown out of employment, in consequence of the late restrictive orders of Government; but he was removed from the Department at my request,• having been found disqualified on trial, for the duties of a Sub Overseer.

3. In my letter to you No. 309, of the 16th June 1857, recommending his removal from the Department, I informed you, that I would represent his case to the Collector, with a view to his providing for Venketakistniah in the Revenue Department; and accordingly on the 30th June 1857, I wrote to the Collector regarding this man, and three other late Maramut Goomastahs,• who had been discharged after trial, as unfit for the new duties of Sub Overseer.

• Annajee Row.
Pooboo Row.
Nagasa Row.

4. These men are all good Accountants, and are no doubt well qualified for appointments under the Collector, and I would suggest that a representation of their case should be made to Government, as the Collector has taken no notice of my appeal to him in their behalf.

(A true Copy.)

(Signed) C. E. FABER, Colonel.
Chief Engineer

No. 39. ORDER THEREON, No. 1775; dated 17th September 1857.

With the first of the papers above recorded, the Chief Engineer submits a letter from the District Engineer of Trichinopoly on the subject of the Establishment of the Public Works Department of that District. Lieutenant Ryves states that the Talook Maistries of the old Department have been all absorbed, and that if the Goomastahs are not to be no longer continued separate from the new establishment, the result, as far as lower subordinates are concerned, will be to reduce instead of to increase the Department. According to the distribution list circulated by the Chief Engineer with his Memo. of 23rd July last, after certain reductions were made in the Public Works Department, the establishment allotted to the District Engineer of Trichinopoly consists of 29 lower subordinates, including office servants allowed to the Commissioned Officers and Upper Subordinates, but excluding Lascars, Moochies, Storekeepers, and Apprentices so that the Government cannot understand what Lieutenant Ryves means by saying that the lower subordinates in his District are only eleven in number, for by the context of his letter, Goomastahs are evidently included in his calculation. Some of the observations made by Lieutenant Ryves in his letter are not very clear; but if he means that the 6 Goomastahs of the old Department, who are reported to be still employed in keeping accounts, should be retained, in addition to the regular establishment, the Government must decidedly say that it cannot be allowed under any circumstances whatever. The establishment allotted for Trichinopoly is certainly quite sufficient for all the duties of the District, as very properly observed by the Chief Engineer. Lieutenant Ryves remarks that he has "found among Bramins a determination not to adopt the new form of accounts; and that, if the Collector's Goomastahs be retained," the establishment of lower subordinates will be partly "composed of six illiterate Mahratta Bramins." It is remarkable that the difficulty about accounts which Lieutenant Ryves has found so great, has not been experienced by the Collectors in the introduction of the new revenue accounts, and certainly, whatever evils may have arisen from the too general employment of Mahratta Bramins, want of ability is a novel charge against them. When such obviously untenable arguments are adduced against the employment of the Collector's Marahmut servants, it becomes only more plain to the Government, that a wish to provide for others, is a more real obstacle to such employment, than the unfitness of the servants themselves.

2. With the second letter above recorded, the Chief Engineer submits a communication from the District Engineer of Cuddapah, regarding four Goomastahs lately in the Collector's Marahmut Establishment, who have been deprived of office because they are considered unfit to be Sub-Overseers. Lieutenant Hemery states that he has asked the Collector to provide for these men, who "are all good Accountants;" and the Chief Engineer remarks on the Collector not having provided for them, and quotes Lieutenant Hemery as saying the men are quite fit for "the Revenue Department" which as shewn above was not the expression made use of by Lieutenant Hemery. As the establishment allowed for the District Engineer and other Executive Officers in the District, comprizes Goomastahs, the Government do not understand why the men, who are considered "good Accountants" by the District Engineer, could not have been entertained in that capacity, instead of being put in situations for which their unfitness might

have been foreseen. The Collector cannot be expected to make vacancies in his Cutcherry; and if the District Engineer, for reasons which he has not stated, is unwilling to employ these men in offices for which he admits that they are fit, and can place them only in situations, their unfitness for which must justify their removal, they must remain unemployed. The Government having already expressed their views on the subject in the Extract Minutes Consultation of this day's date No. 1774, no further orders appear necessary on the present references.

(Signed) H. FORBES.
Acting Secretary to Government.

No 707 of 1857/58

From,
Lieutenant C. Heuery,
District Engineer of Cuddapah,

To
Colonel C. B. Tales,
Chief Engineer, D.R.C.

Sir, Dated 31st [illegible] of [illegible]

I have the honor to return the Petition of Venketachistriah late Sub Overseer in this District, which you referred to me for report, on the 28th Instant.

"Public"

2. Venketachistriah was not thrown out of employment, in consequence of the late restrictive orders of Government; but he was removed from the Department at my †request, having been found disqualified on trial, for the duties of a Sub Overseer.

†Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer D.R.C. Dated 27th June/57 No. 1582.

3. In my letter to you No. 309, of the 16th June 1857, recommending his removal from the Department, I informed you, that I would represent his case to the Collector, with a view to his providing for Venketachistriah in the Revenue Department, and accordingly on the 31st June 1857, I wrote to the Collector regarding this man, and three other late Maraimut Goomastahs, who had been

*Annajee Row
Poolthoo Row
Nagaya Row

been discharged after trial, as unfit for the new duties of Sub Overseer.

4. These men are all good Accountants, and are no doubt well qualified for appointments under the Collector, and I would suggest, that a representation of their case should be made to Government, as the Collector has taken no notice of my appeal to him in their behalf.

D.C. Engrs Office,
Cuddapah.
31st August 1857.

I have the honor to be Sir
Your Obt Servt
D. Hennez Lt
Disttct Engineer & Cuddapah

(A true Copy)
Attested Lieut Colonel
Chief Engineer D.C.R.C.D.

Lt. S. Borell.

Central Office of P. Works,
Fort St. George,
7th September 1857.

No. 3515

From,
The Chief Engineer,
To
The Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

Sir,

Numerous petitions having been received in this Office from men who were formerly Karamut Gormastahs in the Collectors' Establishments for employment as Cutcherry Peons in the Department of Public Works, I have the honor to bring the question before Government, as to the employment of these persons, if unfit for the duties required of them, under the new system.

2 After this view, I beg to submit copy of a letter from the District Engineer of Cuddapah, relating to four men, formerly Karamut Gormastahs, who after trial by Lieutenant Kemery, were discharged, as unqualified for the duties of Sub Overseer, although in Lieutenant Kemeys opinion, quite fit for the Revenue Department; but for whose employment, the Collector does not appear to have made any provision.

I &c

Enclosure 1 in Chief Engineer's No. 3515 dated 7th September 1857.

From Collector of Cuddapah
To D.A. Engr Cuddapah
No 1707 of 1857. Dated 31st August 57

Enclosure in a letter from the Chief Engineer.
To The Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Dated 7th
Received } September 1857

No. 3515
P.W. 1784/57

Copy of a letter from the District Engineer of Cuddapah returning with report the Petition of Venkatakistnah late Sub-Overseer D.P.W. in the Cuddapah District on the subject of his dismissal.

The truth is, that Paramount Zemindars generally were mere Accountants, versed in the Native System of Accounts, but neither accustomed to, nor capable of — learning the practice of this Department, while their ignorance of English, is to me very serious aggravation of their inefficiency. It appears to me that there are very much more suitable, for the Revenue Board of this Service, than they ever can be for that of Public Works, and I cannot but hope, that the Collectors under whom they have so long served, may be induced to favour them with fitting situations and remunerative offices.

I have already forwarded copy of our Lieutenant Pryces on the same subject, and I hope the matter may receive the early consideration of Government, with the understanding, that I entirely concur in the views of the Resident Engineer.

Central Offices of P. Works,
Fort Saint George,
7th September 1857.

Thos. S. Burell.

Chief Engineer.

Henry M. Lees, Esq.,
&c. &c.
Your most Obt. Servt.
Chief Engineer.

This dismissed.

No 3477

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer
in the Department of Public Works Ceylon
Undated the 4th of Nov 1857

No 3477

Read the following Letter

Public

From

Lieut Col A. Layard

Dated 4th of November 1857

To

Lieut Colonel C. Colvin &c &c
Chief Secretary to Government
Colombo

Sir

With reference to Extract Minute of Consultation dated 11th August accompanying your Circular No XCVIII, of the 8th Instant, I received your Excellency's Letter No 1784 dated 22nd September last before the date ordered by Government to which all Returns are to be rendered in accordance with the Orders of the Honorable the Board of Revenue Commissioners dated 6th Instant.

2. The Returns marked A of the Establishment have been all carefully taken in the Districts being filled up and Recapitulated, as far as possible, there

3. Now I have forwarded Returns to no longer Continued Effective from the men Retained -

The Returns

To the Works Department
Dated Colombo 22nd Sept 1857

No 1784

From
The Chief Engineer

To The Secretary to Government
Colombo

Dated 7th
Received 7th September 1857

No 3575

Enclosure 1.
No B 1775 - 17 Sept

Respecting the orders of Govt relative to the disposals of persons formerly employed as Sergeants in the Road Overseers Establishments and found unfit for the duties required of them under the new System of P. Works

1838

C11 Sep. R15

Result will be that by the notification of the 28th January the Public Works establishment in this District, so far as lower subordinates are concerned, will be reduced instead of increased, whereas, I believe, the latter was intended by Government at the time.-

4. At the date of the transfer of the executive in this District to me 1st January 1861 there were on the old maramut establishment

1 Superintendent	now a 1st Overseer
1 Foozdar Maistry	1st Class 1st Grade Ditto
4 Taluk Maistries	2nd do Sub Overseers
6 Jomadars	3 to Jomadars employed in keeping accounts of Rate of work.-
1 Foozdar Jomadar	
2 Runners	Office

5. The Superintendent, Foozdar Maistry, and 4 Taluk maistries have been absorbed, leaving, if we turn out the present occupants of the situations, only 5 vacancies, so that the strength of the subordinate establishment will be less than it was under the old system by one individual, -

and

and its personnel will be identical with what it formerly was, we shall be compelled to keep to Tamil accounts and the former system of keeping them as I find among brahmins a determination not to adopt the new system of accounts.

6. The establishment of lower subordinates in this District will then be composed of 6 illiterate Brahmin Mahratta brahmins and the remaining five, though good men, yet totally unacquainted with English and still too deeply imbued with their old habits as to make it difficult for them to keep their accounts clear and above board, there will be no introduction of new blood, no knowledge of English, and no young men of respectable education, which, I am convinced, must be introduced if the new department is to have a fair chance of success.-

7. If the order of Government be carried out in this district, the change effected by the notification of the 28th January last will only amount to this that the three Taluk Maistries and Jomadars should be called

Sub

Sub Overseers and that one of the former should be pensioned.-

2. I trust that the tone of this letter will not be considered intemperate but I feel that the Credit of the Superintendent is at stake, for were the order carried out we should in this district have a weaker and more inefficient and not more honest subordinate establishment than before the 1st January - but without the advantage of nine Ex. officio with immense local power and with numerous unscrupulous instruments at their command.-

Office
Mechanopolis
29th Augt 1867

I have &c
(Sd) R. G. Rowe Jr
Dy Supt.

Resolved in reply to the foregoing letter No 67, dated 29th Ultimo, to inform the Assistant Engineer of Irrigation, that in reference to Government has already been made on the subject of the order contained in Pl. Mines: Cons: No 1557 of the 11th June regarding the entertainment of the Maramut Establishment Servants

with

17.

with reference to their qualifications.-

The fixed Establishment allotted to Irrigation is by the strength in temporarily reduced under the present restriction on expenditure consists of 6 Upper and 24 lower subordinates which number, not to be exceeded without special sanction, is considered amply sufficient for all the present duties of the District.-

Resolved also that a Copy of these Proceedings and of the District Engineer's Representations on which they are founded, be respectfully submitted for the information of Government.-

True Extract

Sd
S.S.C

Actg Secy Col
Chief Secy

To The Secretary to Government
P. W. D.

Copied

Public Works Dept

1775

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 17th September 1857.

Read the following

papers from the Chief

Engineer.

(Here enter 1st 17th Sept/57 Nos 3477 & 3515)

With the first

of the papers above

recorded the Chief

Engineer submits a

letter from the District

Engineer of Trichinopoly

on the subject of the

Establishment of the

Public Works Depart-

-ment of that District

Lieutenant Ryves

States

£

16

Public Works Dept
Fort St. George 23rd September 1785
Read the Letter from the Chief Engineer
to the Secretary to Government
dated the 17th Instant

Read the Letter from
Lieut. Ryves dated
the 19th Instant

Ordered that Mr. Ryves be
appointed Assistant to the
Chief Engineer

1-37

£ Sep. 1785

states that the Talook
Masthries of the old De-
-partment have been
all absorbed, and that
if the Gomastahs are
to be no longer continued
separate from the
new establishment,
the result, as far as
lower subordinates
are concerned, will be
to reduce instead of
to increase the Department.

According to the dis-
-tribution list circulated
by the Chief Engineer
with his Memo. of 28th
July last, after certain
reductions were made
in the Public Works
Department, the estab-
-blishment allotted

to

to the District Engineer
of Trichinopoly consists
of 29 lower Subordinates,
including Office Servants
allowed to the Com-
-missioned Officers and
upper Subordinates,
but excluding Sircars,
Moochies, Storekeepers,
and Apprentices, so
that the Government
cannot understand
what Lieutenant Ryves
means by saying that
the Lower Subordinates
in his District are
only eleven in num-
-ber, for by the con-
-text of his letter,
Gomastahs are evi-
-dently included in
his calculation. Some

of

of the observations made by Lieutenant Pyper in his letter are not very clear; but if he means that the Gomastehs of the old Department who are reported to be still employed in keeping accounts, should be retained, in addition to the regular Establishment, the Government must decidedly say that this cannot be allowed under any circumstances whatever. The Establishment allotted for Trichinopoly is certainly quite sufficient for all the duties of the District, as very properly observed by the Chief Engineer. Lieutenant Pyper remarks that he has "found among Brahmins a determination not to adopt the new form of accounts; and that, if the Collector Gomastehs are to be retained, the establishment of lower subordinates will be partly composed "of this illiterate Malabar Brahmins." It is remarkable that the difficulty about accounts which Lieutenant Pyper has found so great has not been experienced by

of by the Collectors in the
by introduction of the new
in revenue accounts, and
ce certainly, whatever evils
m may have arisen
-r from the too general
- employment of Shak-
h -patter bramins, want
of ability is a novel
b charge against them.
When such obviously
untenable arguments
are adduced against
the employment of the
Collector's Marchmen
Servants, it becomes
only more plain to the
Government, that a
wish to provide for
others, is a more real
obstacle to such employ-
-ment, than the
unfitness

unfitness of the Servants themselves.

2. With the second letter above recorded, the Chief Engineer submits a communication from the District Engineer of Cuddalore, regarding your Government Order in the Collectors Marcamah Establishment, who have been deprived of Office because they are considered unfit to be Sub-Overseers. Lieutenant Harvey states that he has received the Collector to provide for those men, who "are all good accountants;" and

the

and the Chief Engineer remarks on the Collector not having provided for them, and quotes Lieutenant Henry as saying the men are quite fit for "the Revenue Dept" which as shewn above was not the expression made use of by Lt Henry.

As the Establishment allowed for the District Engineer and other Executive Officers in the District, comprises Gomashtas, the Government do not understand why the men, who are considered "good Accountants" by the District Engineer, could not have been entertained in that capacity, instead

of being put in situations for which their unfitness might have been foreseen.

The Collector cannot be expected to make vacancies in his establishment; and if the District Engineer, for reasons which he has not stated, is unwilling to employ these men in the Office for which he admits that they are fit, and can place them only in situations, their unfitness for which must justify their removal, they must remain unemployed. The

Government

Government having already expressed their views on the subject in the Extract from Consultation of this days date of 1774 no further Orders appear necessary on the present Reference.

J. G.

J Copi to the Chief Engr
Oct. 18

Public Works 1857 Dept.
Do. to Cons: 22d Sept.

No 1775.

Extract Mins: of Cons:
Dated 17th Sept. /57.

From the Chief Engineer dd 15th
Oct. /57 C No 1992 in Reg. Ord

Observing that Govt having
already expressed their views on the
subject of employing the Mah:
ramut Servants of the Collrs
no further Orders appear
necessary.

No 37 at 39.

C 11th Sess: 0215