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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 6-10-57

G.O. No. 1876 Press / Mis.

39-60

Dated 5 — 10 — 18 57

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 39. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 16th September 1857, No. 3753.

Read the following letter from Captain C. A. ORR, District Engineer in charge Kistnah Division; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer dated Bezoarah, 31st August 1857, No. 83.

SIR,

1. With reference to your resolution of the 31st Ultimo, No. 2553, appended to Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 27th Idem No. 1440, passing orders on certain papers handed up by the Acting Collector of Guntoor, regarding an alleged interference of a Sub Overseer of this Department with the preparation of lime in the neighbourhood of Guntoor, and desiring information as to the price charged in that place for lime purchased for the Public Works, and the causes of its rise; I have the honor to state that, with the exception of a few parrahs bought in September 1856, at the rate of Rupees 13 per candy, no lime has been purchased for the Public Works in Guntoor. It is difficult to ascertain what has been the Market price, since the transfer of the charge of Public Works from the Collectors to this Department, but from the best information obtainable I believe, it has ranged from Rupees 13 to Rupees 20 and is now Rupees 16 per candy. I cannot discover that it was ever sold at the price of Rupees 22 asked for it from Mr. Rhode.

2. Lime stone abounds at, and around Guntoor, but being found in larger Nodules, less mixed with clay and nearer the surface at some places than at others, it has usually been dug at only a few spots. Palakaloor is one of the most favorably situated of these, and from thence most of the lime used at Guntoor has been procured both for public and private purposes, the Tahsildar, previous to the transfer of the works to this Department, having managed the supply by making advances to the Villagers, and by aiding them in procuring fuel free of cost. The price was arbitrarily fixed by him, and that price ruled the Market; but on the transfer of the Department his interference, the aid he afforded, and the pressure he exerted having ceased, the few persons, in whose hands the Manufacture of lime was, had a monopoly of the trade, and, probably, finding the demand insignificant, while the difficulty of obtaining fuel had increased, they thougt it for their advantage to raise the price. No lime happened to be required at Guntoor for the Public Works (except the three parrahs above mentioned) but the price continued to rise till it reached Rupees 20 in January. The measures adopted by Lieutenant Tulloch for supplying himself had therefore nothing to do with it, for he began digging the stone only in February, a month after, lime had risen to Rupees 20 per candy, and after those very men who complain of his Proceedings, as the cause of the rise, had refused over and over again to supply the article for less than Rupees 18, a price which I need scarcely say is almost prohibitive of its use for the Public Works. The preparation of lime was forced upon Lieutenant Tulloch by the people themselves, and as he succeeded in making it, under every disadvantage for less than Rupees 6 a candy, they no doubt felt greatly aggrieved, though that price would have been amply remunerative to them, as it is more than double the cost of the lime which is prepared here in large quantities for the Delta works.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Stone	0	5	0
Carriage	1	0	0
Fuel	1	13	0
Labour and Superintendence for burning	2	9	0
Total	5	11	0

3. Of the items making up the cost of a candy of lime, the unburnt stone is set down as costing five Annas, which is probably double its value, as I can have it dug in any quantity at several places in the Guntoor District, for about three Annas, for as much as will produce a candy of lime. The stone being so plentiful, and so cheaply dug, it is ridiculous to suppose that the mere prevention of its being excavated from particular pits should cause any material rise in price, even if it were not certain that the rise in Guntoor had occured long before any interference whatever took place with its manufacture, and that it was solely owing to the people being suddenly left free to ask what they liked, to the demand being limited and uncertain, and to the increased difficulty and cost of procuring fuel.

4. Mr. Rhode and the Acting Collector have characterized the Maistrys conduct as appression, but for my part I cannot see that the man did any thing more than his duty in preventing

persons taking possession of pits which his employers had opened for themselves. There was nothing to prevent the villagers digging in their own pits in the neighbourhood though it has been given in evidence by the very parties who got up the story, and has been believed, that the Maistry gave out, that unless they agreed to sell lime at Rupees 3-4 they would not be allowed to dig a stone. What the Maistry, acting up to his instructions and with the knowledge of the facts of the case, probably did say was, that if they would supply the lime at something like the rate at which it was being made by Lieutenant Tulloch, the preparation of it would be left entirely to them, but if not, they would not be allowed to dig in the pits he had charged. That these were situated on Inam land does not, that I can see, alter the practice, as that was a matter for settlement between the Inamdar, and Lieutenant Tulloch.

3. These papers afford a good illustration of the feeling with which the Department of Public Works is still regarded in certain quarters.

Resolved with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation No. 1440, dated 27th July to forward to Government copy of the foregoing letter No. 83, of the 31st Ultimo, from the District Engineer Kistnah Division, on the subject of the alleged interference of a Sub Overseer of the Department, with the preparation of lime in the vicinity of Guntoor, of the price of lime purchased for the Public Works at that place, and of the causes of its rise.

2. The District Engineer sufficiently explains that the measures adopted by Lieutenant Tulloch for supplying himself with lime, had nothing to do with the increased price demanded for it, and further points out that, that Officer succeeded under every disadvantage, in making it for less than Rupees 6 per candy.

3. The District Engineer in concluding his letter defends the conduct of the Maistry, and the Chief Engineer, on a careful perusal of the whole correspondence, is of opinion, that there has been no substantial cause of complaints against Captain Orr's subordinates.

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

No. 40.

ORDER THEREON, No. 1570; dated 5th October 1857.

Under the explanation furnished by the District Engineer in his letter of 31st August last, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council considers it unnecessary to take any further notice of the charge of oppression brought against the Sub Overseer Venkatasawmy.

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

No. 3453

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer in the Department of Public Works.

Under date the 16th September 1857.

Read the following

From Bezwarah
31st August 1857

No. 83

To
The Chief Engineer
in the Department of Public Works
Acting Superintending Engineer
Madras

Sir,

With reference to your Revenue Letter of the 31st Ultimo, No. 2553, addressed to Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 27th idem No. 1440 passing orders on certain papers handed up by the Acting Collector of Guntoor, regarding an alleged interference of a Sub Overseer of this Department with the preparation of lime in the neighbourhood of Guntoor and desiring information as to the price charged in that place for lime purchased for the Public Works, and the causes of its rise; I have the honor to state

that

Managed the supply by making advances to the Villagers, and by aiding them in procuring fuel free of cost. The price was arbitrarily fixed by him, and that price ruled the Market; but on the transfer of the Department his interference, the aid he afforded, and the pressure he exerted having ceased, the few persons, in whose hands the Manufacture of lime was, had a monopoly of the trade; and, probably, finding the demand insignificant, while the difficulty of obtaining fuel had increased, they found it for their advantage to raise the price. No lime has been required for the Public Works, except the three parahs above mentioned, but the price continued to rise till it reached Rupees 30 in January. The measures adopted by Lieutenant Tulloch for supplying himself had therefore nothing to do with it, for he began digging the stone only in February, a Month after, lime had risen to Rupees 20 per Candy, and after those very men who complain of

ridiculous to suppose that the mere
prevention of its being excavated from
particular pits should cause any Materia
rise in price, even if it were not certain
that the rise in Gunteor had occurred long
before any interference whatever took pl.
with its manufacture, and that it was
solely owing to the people being suddenly
left free to ask what they liked, to the
demand being limited and uncertain, and
to the increased difficulty and cost of pro-
curing fuel.

Mr. Rhode and the acting Col.
Lester have characterized the Ministry co
duct as oppression, but for my part I
cannot see that the man did any thing more
than his duty in preventing persons taking
possession of pits which his employers had
opened for themselves. There was nothing t
prevent the villagers digging in their own
pits in the neighbourhood though it has been
given in evidence by the very parties
who got up the story, and has been believed,
that the Ministry gave out that unless
they agreed to sell lime at Rupees 5-4-
they would not be allowed to dig a stone-

That

That the Ministry, acting not to his instructions and with his knowledge of the facts of the case, probably did say one, that if they would subtract the time at something like the rate at which it was being made by Lieutenant Tulloch, the preparation of it would be left entirely to them, but if not, they would not be allowed to dig in the pits he had charge of. That these were situated on Enam land does not, that I can see, alter the question, as that was a matter for settlement between the Enamdar, and Lieutenant Tulloch.

5 These papers afford a good illustration of the feeling with which the Department of Public Works is still regarded in certain quarters.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servant
(Signed) C. A. Orr Captain
District Engineer in ch.
Kistnah Division

Resolved

Resolved with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation No. 1440, dated 27th July to forward to Government copy of the foregoing letter No. 83, of the 31st Ultimo, from the District Engineer Kistnah Division, on the subject of the alleged interference of a Sub Overseer of his Department with the preparation of Lime in the vicinity of Gunnoor, of the price of Lime purchased for the Public Works at that place, and of the causes of its rise.

2 The District Engineer sufficiently explains that the measures adopted by Lieutenant Tulloch for supplying himself with Lime, had nothing to do with the increased price demanded for it, and further points out that that Officer succeeded under every disadvantage, in making it for less than Rupees 6 per candy.

3 The District Engineer in concluding his letter defends the conduct of the Ministry, and the Chief Engineer, on a careful perusal of the whole correspondence, is of opinion, that there has been no substantial cause of complaint

complaints against Captain Orrs subordinates.

W.
Esquimalt B.C.

R.E. Foster Colonel
Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

Comm 28th July 57 No 1172

Public Works 25th Sept. Dept.
No 40 Comm 8th Oct.

No. 1816.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer

To

The Secty to Government

Dist. 2.

Dated 16
Received 18th } September 1857

No. 3733

Submits with reference to Contract Memo Public Station No. 1440 of the 24th July 57 copy of a letter from the Dist. Engr. Kistnah Division on the subject of the alleged interference of a Sub Overseer of his Department with the preparations of timber in the vicinity of Guntoor and from the explanation elicited the Chief Engr is of opinion that no just cause of complaint lies against Subaltern Officers subordinate to No. 1876. 5th Octr

William order

No. 1876

Under the explanation furnished by the District Engineer in his letter of 21st August last, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council considers it unnecessary to take any further notice of the charge of oppression brought against the Sub Overseer Venkatasamy

Fort St. George
5th October 1857

Copies to the Chief Engr Dist 6
Magistrate of Guntoor

A39.440

C 25 Sept 28 C1 C Nos 23