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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Secs. 17.3.37

G.O. No. 456	Press Mis.
24-6-5	
Dated 2	19 37

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 64. Read the following letter from M. MURRAY, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah ; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, D. P. W., dated Doovoor, 31st January 1857, No. 4.

SIR,

Para. 1. With reference to Extract from Minutes of Consultation dated 16th January 1857, No. 112, with respect to obtaining supplies for the Mahramut Department, I have the honor to request, you will be so good as obtain the opinion of Government on the following points, and favor me with their sentiments for my information and guidance, viz. to what extent are the heads of villages and other public servants to be called upon to supply fowls, meat and other supplies for the Overseers and others of the Mahramut Department. It not unfrequently happens that one or more are located in a village for many months and to supply their wants daily, the heads of the villages must forage among the neighbouring villages to obtain fowls for the consumption of the Overseers, as the quantity required is not bred in the village. Is it the duty of the villagers to search for and procure the number required, or is the Mahramut Department to exert themselves to find their own supplies when permanently stationed at one place for several months consecutively. For instance, Mr. Addis the late Assistant Superintendent of roads, lived at Calcudda for many months (short intervals intervening) and complained that he could not get the quantity of supplies he required the heads of villages also complained that they could not furnish them as they were not procurable in the village. This appears to me to be rather overtaxing the resourses of the village and those possessing fowls which t ey have reared for their own use have them taken by force and made over to the Overseers, and further, it often happens that the breeders dont receive the value of the article taken from them.

2. In cases where new Ghauts are to be opened and large supplies are required for coolies and others, how are these supplies to be obtained and by whom? The merchants in Chitwail Talook, have positively refused to carry the different articles required by labourers to the Rapoor Ghaut for sale to the workmen. Is it the intention of Government that the Revenue authorities shall compel the merchants to quit their homes, families and shops and carry the required supplies for the use of the labourers to a distant place which may not be overhealthy, and how can the Revenue authorities carry out such orders should the comities refuse? My own opinion is, that they cannot possibly interfere with the liberty of the subject and compel him to dispose of his merchandize at any other place than he choses. I believe, though I cannot find it, that the Government in a case of a similar nature which was mooted in Tinnevelly, ordered that the Engineers Department should make their own arrangements. As it is probable that new Ghauts will be speedily commenced to be opened in this province, I beg the favor of early instruction.

3. With reference to Lieutenant Hemery's letter, with regard to supplies, I would beg to remark that he has *willingly* kept back information from Government which ought to have been afforded at the time he preferred his complaint of want of supplies. Two of the Overseers, one Mr. Newham and the other Mr. Thorpe, had been stationed at the same village for several months, the latter for nearly 2 years; on investigating a case in which the former was concerned, he informed me, that he believed that the villagers had great enmity towards him which he attributed to his having beaten one of the Bakhals, shortly after his reaching the village, and it was proved to me that he had received sheep and eaten them tendering only half of the price. One sheep was produced before my Cutcherry, which he declared to be valued only at 6 annas, but was valued by ryots, not connected with that part of the country at all, at 12 annas, and after Mr. Newham had left the village, I myself, paid 6 Rupees and odd to the villagers to liquidate the accounts which he left unpaid ; this circumstance, I mentioned to Lieutenant Hemery in my own office. The fowls required by the two Overseers were not procurable in the village ; Mr. Thorpe advanced, I think, 5 Rupees to the reddies for fowls and on their coming before me they shewed that with the exception of a very few, which they had not been able to procure the whole number had been supplied and the remainder they declared they would supply as soon as possible, to all of which Mr. Thorpe agreed so much for Lieutenant Hemery's statement that they cannot get fowls when advanced for and this is the only instance which I ever heard of money having been advanced for such a purpose.

4. Another Overseer named Haddock, wrote to Lieutenant Hemery, which letter I myself saw, complaining that the merchants in his village would only give him 20 to 24 measures of

a representation made

grain, when it was selling at Cuddapah, only 13 miles distant, from 17 to 18 measures per Rupee. These are the men who, have made complaints that I know of.

5. With regard to the statements of Major Boileau, they are to be taken with several grains of allowance, as the Overseers employed at that time, viz. time of famine, were stationed at small villages, which many of the inhabitants had deserted and had consumed the few fowls they formerly possessed, and consequently the difficulty of procuring them elsewhere was proportionately great, and as I have previously stated declining to pay the full price demanded and during this same year Poultry of any kind could with difficulty be procured in Cuddapah the Overseers could not obtain the required number.

6. With regard to Mr. Egan, such a statement as that put forth, I cannot in the slightest degree credit, the grain merchant's shops were open and he could have purchased as much as he pleased, to suppose that he and his numerous family lived for a period of 11 days "on what his gun produced," I believe to be perfectly fallacious as sheep were in the neighbourhood if he chosed to purchase them.

7. Of Mr. Cope, I have never heard, if any communication had been made with regard to him, I have no recollection of it nor do I know who he was, but upon a reference to Major Boileaus' letter quoted by the Chief Engineer, it would appear that Messrs. Cope and Newham "lived upon Bacon and Potatoes" on account of the difficulty of getting regular market supplies; I would beg to ask where regular market supplies can be obtained in any village all along that road or in most of the villages in Cuddapah; but the same Mr. Newham informed me, he found no difficulty at his station on the Bellary road, in procuring sheep, a flock of which, he brought with him when he left that station for another which strongly mititates against the statement of Major Boileau. If Mr. Cope be the person who was employed on the Boogga and Rolla rivers and who was dismissed for ill-treatment of the natives and with strong presumption of having committed Rape upon a female employed in the work, though it was not substantially proved, his treatment of the natives would shew the cause of his not obtaining supplies.

8. In conclusion, I beg to state, that, I regret, exceedingly taking up the valuable time of Government by entering into such details; many more instances, I could enumerate not excepting the Engineer Officers themselves, which I shall not enter upon now and would not have said so much, did I not consider it due to myself, having been condemned by Government upon an exparte statement in which a number of the real facts have been kept back. Had I been called upon for any remarks, I had to make on Lieutenant Hemery's letter I think it probable, the remarks of the Minutes of Consultation would not have been written or at least greatly modified.

No. 65. ORDER THEREON, No. 486; dated 17th March 1857.

In the above letter, the Collector of Cuddapah refers to the orders passed by Government in an Extract from the Minutes of Consultation dated the 16th of January No. 112, on a representation made to the Chief Engineer by the District Engineer of the difficulties that the Subordinate Officers of his Department experienced in procuring ordinary supplies within the District of Cuddapah. Mr. Murray enters into some details of disputes which, he has heard, have arisen about supplies, between the Overseers and the village reddies, and desires to have the opinion of Government on two points.

1st. The extent to which the heads of villages and other public servants are to be called upon to procure supplies for the Officers of the Mahramut Department and 2nd how supplies are to be afforded " to coolies and others when new Ghauts are to be opened."

2. In the opinion of the Government this reference was unnecessary; in the Extract Minutes Consultation above referred to, the Collector was reminded that the Board of Public Works had on a former occasion directed him to issue peremptory orders that all persons in the Public Works Department, wherever stationed, should be punctually supplied with necessary and usual articles on payment, and he was informed that the Governor in Council could see nothing in the fact that the Executive of the Public Works had been changed from the Collector to the Engineer, which would at all alter, in this respect, the duties of the former Officer. Mr. Murray was told that he was expected fully to perform this duty, and that any instance of neglect, leading to obstruction to the public service, would incur the severe displeasure of Government. The Collector was informed that heads of villages were to be made clearly to understand that it was their duty to furnish ordinary articles of consumption without delay, at fair prices; the hope of Government was expressed that no further difficulty would arise in Cuddapah, where alone any difficulty had been heard of, and their resolution, not to permit one branch of the public service to be impeded by apathy or opposition in another, was pointedly communicated to the Collector.

3. The orders of Government have thus been already passed on the points raised by the Collector, and to those orders Mr. Murray is now referred.

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

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 17th March 1857.

P. W. D. 5

No. 486

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 17th March 1857.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Cuddapah.

(Here enter 31st Jan'y/57 No. 4.)

In the above letter the Collector of Cuddapah refers to the orders passed by Govt. in an Extract from the Mins. of Cons. dated the 6th of January No. 112 on a representation made

to

to the Chief Engineer by the District Engineer of the difficulties that the subordinate officers of his Department experienced in procuring ordinary supplies within the district of Cuddapah. Mr. Murray enters into some details of disputes which he has heard have arisen about supplies, between the Overseers and the Village Reddies, and desires to have the opinion of Govt. on two points.

1st. the Extent to which the heads of Villages and other public servants are to be called upon to procure supplies for the Officers of the Mahrattah Dept.

2d. how supplies are to be afforded to Coolies and others when new Ghauts are to be opened.

In the opinion of the Govt. this reference was ~~probably~~ unnecessary in the Extract of Mr. Cons. above referred to, the Collector was reminded that the Board of Public

Public Works had on a former occasion directed him to issue peremptory orders that all persons in the Public Works Department wherever stationed should be punctually supplied with necessary and usual articles on payment, and he was informed that the Governor in Council could see nothing in the fact that the Executive of the Public Works had been changed from the Collector to the engineer, which would at all alter

alter in this respect the duties of the former Officer. Mr. Murray was told that he was expected fully to perform this duty and that any instance of neglect leading to obstruction to the public service would incur the severe displeasure of Government.

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the hope of Govt was expressed that no further difficulty would arise, in Addajah, where alone any difficulty had been heard of, and their resolution, not to permit one branch of the public service to be impeded by apathy or opposition in another was pointedly communicated to the Collector.

The orders of Govt. have thus been already passed on the points raised ~~referred to~~ by the Collector, and ~~the Governor in Council~~ must express his displeasure that the subject has been again brought forward.

The Govt. can allow of no divisions in the public service, they expect, and have a right to expect, that all in their employ shall co-operate cheerfully and heartily in carrying on the service of the State; and they certainly will not tolerate that, where two departments are mutually dependant on each other, the duties of

to the order of Govt. is now referred.

J. C. Smyth the Chief Engr. Oct 28th 1838
Fort St. David

of either shall be impeded by even the passive opposition of the other.

Mr Murray can hardly have arrived at his present position in the service without being fully aware of the influence exercised by all who hold authority in the Provinces and without knowing how readily the native subordinates of a Collector seek the favor of their superior, by adapting themselves to his policy although they may have

no specific order to guide for their actions, ~~and~~ the very fact of the Collector's present letter having been written, when the points it refers for settlement, had already been fully disposed of, will, in the opinion of Govt., do great evil, by leading the Talook and Village servants to carry into action the indisposition to assist the Engineer authorities, which is but too plainly shewn by the Collector.

The Govt. are happy to know that Mr Murray

Murray is singular in
the indifference in the
he shews to the tion of
and prosperity of
District committed to
his charge, and that
while all other Collect=
ors are engaged in an
honorable rivalry as
to who shall obtain
the largest share of
the sum which the
Govt: is able to devote
to public works, and who
shall devise works
most conducive to the
well being of the people
and the state, Mr Murray
stands alone as opposed
to

no public improvement,
quote; disposed, to place
~~and~~ the ties in the way
to collect advance which
in all ~~other~~ Districts,
Exceptng Cuddapah,
is proceeding with
rapid strides.

The Govt: will
not allow this to con=
=tinue; they have re=
=solved that it is for the
benefit of the country
that the Executive of
the Public Works shall
be in professional
hands; the change had
been effected in some
Districts and without
any

any difficulties resulting; the system is to be universal, and if after this additional warning the present Collector of Caddapah shall continue to follow a course which the Govt cannot ~~doubt is destructive~~ oppose. to their views, they must place the district in the hands of some Officer who with a higher appreciation of the value of public works, and with more energy in promoting them, will shew an active and cheerful disposition to forward the views of Govt.

Public Works 1857 Dep.t No.
Cons. 17.th March.

No. 486.

Extract Mins. of Cons.
of 17.th March 1857.

Ex. Pro. Chief Engr. 25 Nov.r 56
Cel.a 2049 ni Cons. 26 Jan.y 58.

Ordering that Gov.t
have already passed orders, de-
fining the extent to which
the Heads of Villages & other
public Servants are to be
called upon, to procure
supplies for the Officers of
the P. W. D. &c. referring
Mr. Murray to those orders.

No 64 & 65.

19.th Feby 1858 C. S. Marsh. R. G.E.