

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Co-2, 137, 100

G.O. No.	1357	Press
		Mis.
Dated	7/3/7	18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 13th July 1858.

No. 77. Read the following letter from C. WHITTINGHAM, Esq., Magistrate of North Arcot; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Wallajapet, 17th June 1858, No. 32.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit for the information of Government, copy of a letter dated the 12th June 1858, from the Assistant Supervisor in charge of the 3rd Section, to Mr. Dopping, the Acting District Engineer, copy of which I have this day received from Mr. Dopping, reporting the death of two coolies, which resulted from the falling in of earth, while they were digging for chunam.

2. The report shows, that the accident is to be attributed to careless supervision, and defective arrangements on the part of the Sub-Overseer and Conicopoly under whom the coolies were employed.

3. Eroomboorum, the place at which the accident occurred, is in the Arcot Talook of the Sub-Division, but I have not yet received any report on the subject from the Joint Magistrate.

Letter from A. RAMANJOOLOO, Pillay, Assistant Supervisor in charge of 3rd Section and Paular Annicut project; to JAMES H. DOPPING, Esq., Covenanted District Engineer, dated Camp Paular Annicut, 12th June 1858, No. 170.

SIR,

Adverting to my letter No. 167, of this day's date, I most respectfully beg leave to state, that I have visited the Eroomboorum Chunam Quarry, and the following are the particulars.

It appears from enquiry, that one man cooly, Chuppamy, and two women coolies, Moonchee and Ummatha, were employed in digging and picking lime stones in a place about 60 or 70 yards away from the other coolies; the above three coolies, instead of removing the mud layer at top about 1½ foot in thickness, went on scooping out in order to lighten their labour and thus enable them to collect earlier, the quantity required of them for the day. When they have, this made a hollow about 2 yards long, 1 yard wide and 1 yard deep, the mud layer hanging over head fell, and completely overwhelmed the coolies Chuppamee, about 60 years old and Moonchee, a girl of about 14 years old, and smothered them to death. Ummatha, who was a little out of the hollow, had only a portion of her body up to her thighs covered. She cried out for help, the other coolies who were ignorant of the accident until they heard her, immediately ran and rescued her; the woman having told them, that there were two more under the mud. On the removal of the mud, the two coolies were found dead. The Conicopoly employed on the work was not present when this occurred, as he had followed the Sub-Overseer to Nottary Tank.

I am of opinion, that this accident has occurred from want of care and supervision on the part of the Sub-Overseer and the Conicopoly, although they were acquainted of a similar accident which had occurred at the same place some three years ago, yet they did not give themselves the trouble of preventing the coolies from pursuing the dangerous method of scooping out.

Mr. Haydon, Sub-Overseer, on being told that he ought not to have allowed the coolies to work in that manner; he replied, that he cared very little for the way in which the coolies set about working, provided they produced the No. of parahs required of them daily.

In conclusion, I would beg leave to suggest, that, as I have heard of the occurrences of several accidents of a similar nature, measures should be at once adopted for putting an end to this dangerous mode of collecting chunam.

No. 78. ORDER THEREON, No. 1337; dated 12th July 1858.

The Government observe, that the accident reported in the above letter, is attributed to careless supervision and defective arrangements on the part of a Sub-Overseer and Conicopyllay of the Public Works Department. They resolve, therefore, to request the Officiating Chief Engineer, to whom these papers will be communicated, will explain, whether a report of the occurrence has been made to the Central Office, and if so, what notice has been taken of it; and further, whether any and what measures are in force, for the prevention of such accidents.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

N^o 170.

3^d Section Office

Camp Paular Ancient

12 June 1858.

From A. Ramajooloo Pillay

Assistant Supervisor in Charge of
3^d Section & Paular Ancient Project

To James H. Dopping Esq. C. Eng.
District Engineer.

Sir,

Answering to my letter N^o 167
of this day's date I most respectfully
beg leave to state that I have
visited the Eroomborum Chumam
Quarry and the following are the particulars.

It appears from enquiry
that one man cooly Chuppanee
and two women Coolies Mooshee
and Ummatha were employed in
digging and picking lime stones
in a place about 60 or 70 yards
away from the other Coolies; the above
three Coolies instead of removing the
mud

mud layer at top about $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot in thickness went on scooping out in order to lighten their labour and thus enable them to collect earlier the quantity required of them for the day. When they have thus made a hollow about 2 yards long 1 yard wide and 1 yard deep the mud layer hanging over has fallen and completely overwhelmed the Coolies Chuffance about 60 years old and Monhee a girl of about 14 years old and smothered them to death. Umutha who was a little out of the hollow has only a portion of her body up to her thighs covered. She cries out for help. the other coolies who were ignorant of the accident until they hear her immediately ran and rescued her the woman having told them that there were two more under the mud. On the removal of the mud the two Coolies were found dead.

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In conclusion I would beg
leave to suggest that, as I have heard
of the occurrences of several accidents of
a similar nature, measures should
be at once adopted for putting an
end to this dangerous mode of Collecting
Chumam.

They to remain ~~free~~.
(Signed) M. Ramayjooloo.
Assistant Supervisor
in Charge of 3^d Section.

/ True Copy /
(Signed) L. F. Dopping C.E.
District Engineer of B.C.

To The information of
C. Whittingham Esq.
Collector of South Coast

/ True Copy /

C. Whittingham
Collector

North Brest
Magistrate's Office
Wahajapet 17 June 1858
From J. Whittingham Esq.
Magistrate of North Brest
To J. S. Lyra Esq.
Chief Secretary to the
Government
Fort St. George

Sir,

I have the honor to
submit for the information
of Government copy of a letter
dated the 12. June 1858 from the
Assistant Superintendant in charge
of the 3. Section to Mr. Dopping
the Acting District Engineer,
copy of which I have this day
received from Mr. Dopping, reporting
the death of two coolies which
resulted from the falling in
of earth while they were digging
for

Enclosed is a letter from the
Commissioner of North Brest
to the Chief Secretary
to Government dated
17 June 1858 No. 32.

No. 170/58

Copy of a letter
from the Assistant
in charge of 3. Section
and District Engineer
to the District
Engineer dated 11 June
1858 No. 170.

1337

Extrait from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 12th July 1855.

Read the following
letter from the Magistrate
of North Street.

(Here entered June 1855 A.M.)
32

The Government observe that the accident reported in the above letter is attributed to careless supervision & defective arrangements on the part of a Sub. Overseer and a Carrier of the Public Works Department. They resolve therefore to request

the

At
the
will

25 June 1855

At the 32nd Session of the
General Assembly of the
Province of the Cape of Good Hope
held at Cape Town on the 25th June 1855.
The following resolution was adopted:
That the Government be requested to
cause a full and complete investigation to be made
into the circumstances of the above mentioned
accident, and to report thereon to the next
session of the Assembly.

the officer in charge of the
Central Office to whom
these papers will be com-
municated will explain
whether a report of the
occurrence has been made
to the Central Office
and if so what notice
has been taken of it, and
further whether any and
what measures are in force
for the prevention of
such accidents.

WAB

10 Papers to the Offr Chief Insp. District
1 — — — Mayor of North Street

May 8/98.
Communicating to the
Attaching copy a letter from the
Inspector of health and reporting
the accident that death of two sailors
while employed in digging a
trench. The report of the
circumstances of the accident has
been made to the District Office,
and so far as the law has been
taken of it.

From the Attaching
Copy of 1888/1889
10 May
The above copy of the
copy of 1888/1889
From the Copy of 1888/1889
May 8/1888/1889

Public Works Office
Copy to the
20/10/97
Copy to the
21/10/97

