1. Number of Pages.
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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 4-8-57

G.O. No. 1076	Press Mis.
23-28	
Dated 30-7-	1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 4th August 1857.

No. 23. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 18th July 1857, No. 2114.

Read the following letter from Captain J. SHAND, Assistant Engineer; to Captain P. M. FRANCIS, District Engineer of Coimbatore, dated Suttimungalum, 24th June 1857, No. 160.

SIR,

I have the honor to report that the nearest heirs of the cooly Hyeemony Gounda, who was reported by Lieutenant Chrystie as having been killed by the falling in of earth in an excavation on the Trunk road No. 5, in the VI mile, North East of Coimbatore, are his wife Palaneeama and eldest son Curpa, both of the village of Neelumbore at the X mile on the Trunk road North East of Coimbatore.

2. The excavation in which the accident happened is one from which gravel had been taken at some former time, at which the gravel, as it underlies the earth, at the surface, had been dug away so as to leave a shelf of earth, about three feet thick, unsupported save by its own Cohesion. No work was going on in the pit at the time, but three men were sitting in it singing, the deceased with his back to the part which gave way, the others facing it. Suddenly about four cart loads of the superincumbent block soil fell on the party, from the effects of which Hyeemony Gounda died in about an hour and a half, the other two were slightly bruised.

3. In consequence I have issued orders on the Trunk road that no gravel pits are to be dug in till their sides are cut sloping slightly inwards, and that this section is to be carefully retained.

4. Delay in reporting this accident has occurred owing to my moving between Coimbatore and Suttimungalum, and to the European Overseer in charge of the repair of the Trunk road not fully understanding at first what information as to names of heirs &c. was wanted.

Resolved, with reference to Extract from Minutes of Consultation No. 1216, dated 23rd June 1857, calling for more information respecting the accident which occurred on Trunk road No. 5, to forward, for the information and orders of Government the foregoing copy of a letter from Captain Shand, No. 160, dated 24th June 1857.

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

No. 24. Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 21st July 1857, No. 2241.

Read the following letter from Colonel E. A. FORD, District Engineer of South Arcot; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Cuddalore, 8th July 1857, No. 202.

SIR,

I have the honor to report that an accident occurred at the Motalore gravel pit, on Trunk road No. 8, on the 18th of last month, by which a cooly named Iyen Permal lost his life, and another named Aumacey, was seriously injured. They had, contrary to orders, commenced excavating from the bottom of the pit, before a sufficient quantity of the top soil had been removed, and the side of the pit fell in upon them. Assistant Overseer King reported the accident to the Tahsildar, who came to the place, and after enquiring of the other coolies, who were at work, was satisfied that the unfortunate men suffered from their own heedlessness. Mr. King got an Apothecary, who was on his way to Trichinopoly, to come out and set the fracture in the jaw and shoulder of the cooly who was injured, and he wished to send the man into Cuddalore, but his friends preferred taking him to his village. I have directed Sub Engineer Graham to visit the pit himself, and also to issue fresh instructions to the Overseers and Maistries on the roads, to explain to all the coolies the danger of working in pits with steep sides and particularly in attempting to dig away the under soil, without removing the surface earth.

Time

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 4th August 1857.

Resolved that a copy of the foregoing letter No. 202 of the 8th July 1857, from the District Engineer of South Arcot, reporting the death of a cooly, and the serious injury received by another, be submitted for the information of Government, in conformity with Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 552 of the 23rd April 1856.

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

No. 25. ORDER THEREON, No. 1476; dated 30th July 1857.

With the first of the above Proceedings the Chief Engineer submits, with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation 23rd June 1857, No. 1216, a further report from Captain Shand, Assistant Engineer in the District of Coimbatore, respecting the occurrences of an accident on Trunk road No. 5 by which one man was killed and two slightly injured in May last, and with the second of the papers above recorded, Colonel Faber forwards a letter from the District Engineer of Cuddalore, bringing to notice the accidental death of one cooly, and serious injury to another, at the Motalore gravel pit on Trunk road, No. 8. In another letter from the Chief Engineer of the 17th Instant, No. 2100, separately disposed of, the Government were informed that from a smilar cause one more individual had lost his life.

2. Thus the Government remark that no less than three accidents have been reported on by the Chief Engineer within a short time from the very careless practice of allowing work people to undermine the surface of the ground. Colonel Faber will be requested to issue a Circular Order calling the attention of his Department to the fact that three lives have been thus lost, and directing that greater attention be paid to the matter in future.

3. In neither of the first two cases noticed above, have the Engineer Officers recommended gratuities to the nearest heirs of the deceased, as required by the rules conveyed in Extract Minutes Consultation 23rd September 1856, No. 1687, the Chief Engineer will be good enough to ascertain the reason of this omission, and if it was unintentional, to forward an application on their behalf in the prescribed form.

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

No. 2114.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer in the Department of Public Works Fort St. George
Under date the 18th July 1857.

Read the following Letter

No 150

From

Captain D. Shand
Assistant Engineer

To

Captain P. M. Francis
District Engineer of Coimbatore

Sir,

I have the honor to report that the nearest Heirs of the Cooly Ayyemony Gounda, who was reported by Lt Chrystie as having been killed by the falling in of earth in an excavation on the Trunk Road No 5, in the VI mile, North East of Coimbatore, are his wife Palaneeama and Eldest Son Cursa, both of the Village of Arelumboor at the X mile on the Trunk Road North East of Coimbatore.-

2. The excavation in which the accident happened is one from which Gravel has been taken at some former

time

time, at which the gravel, as it underlies the earth at the surface, had been dug away so as to leave a shelf of earth, about three feet thick, unsupported save by its own Cohesion. No work was going on in the pit at the time, but three men were sitting in it singing, the deceased with his back to the part which gave way, the others facing it. Suddenly about four Cart loads of the Superincumbent black soil fell on the party from the effects of which Nyeemony Gounda died in about an hour and a half, the other two were slightly bruised.-

3. In Consequence I have issued orders on the Trunk Road that no Gravel pits are to be dug in till their sides are Cut sloping slightly inwards, and that this Section is to be Carefully retained.-

4. Delay in reporting this accident has occurred owing to my moving between Coimbatore and Sattimungalum and to the European Overseer in Charge of the Repair of the Trunk Road not fully understanding at first what information as to names of Persons

was wanted.-

Assistant Engrs Office
Bhowany Sub Div
Sattimungalum 24th June 57

I have &c
(Sd) J. Shand Capt
Asst Engr B Sub D

True Copy
Sd/ P.N. Francis
Dy Sup. Cmdr

Recorded, with Reference to Extract from Minutes of Consultation No 1216, dated 25th June 1857, Calling for more information respecting the accident which occurred on Trunk Road No 5, to forward for the information and orders of Govt, the foregoing Copy of a letter from Captain Shand, No 166 dated 24th June 57

True Extract
(Sd) Alex Taylor Col
Chief Engr

To
The Secretary to Govt
P.W.D.

Copy

No 2241

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer in the Department of Public Works Fort St George
Under date the 21st July 1857.

Read the following letter

No 202.

To

Colonel C. S. Faber
Chief Engr. D.P.W.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that an accident occurred at the Motalore Gravel pit, on Trunk Road No 8, on the 18th of last month, by which a Coolie named Sylen Pemal lost his life, and another named Aumacey, was seriously injured. They had, Contrary to orders, commenced excavating from the bottom of the pit before a sufficient quantity of the top Soil had been removed, and the side of the pit fell in upon them. Assistant Overseer King reported the accident to the Tahsildar, who came to the place, and after enquiring of the other Coolies, who were at work, was satisfied that the unfortunate men suffered from their

23rd June to 1st July 1857

Public Works Department
Chief Engineers Office
Fort St George the 21st July 1857

Read the following letter from the Chief Engineer Dated the 18th Instant

Ordered that Mr Assistant Overseer King be informed that the Chief Engineer is satisfied with the Report made by him of the accident which occurred on the Trunk Road No 8.

By Order of the Chief Engineer
C. Pollock Lieut. R.E.
Secretary

Remarks for the information of Overseer King

Chief Engr's Office
Fort St George
1st August 1857

Ryan Captain Rank
Reckoning the accident
which occurred on Trunk
Road No 8. &c

C24 dated July 1857

their own helplessness. Mr King got an Apothecary, who was on his way to Pachmopoly, to come out and set the fracture in the jaw and shoulder of the Coolly who was injured, and he wished to send the man into Cuddalore but his friends preferred taking him to his village. I have directed Sub Engineer Graham to visit the pit himself, and also to issue fresh instructions to the Overseers and Mastries on the roads, to explain to all the Coolies the danger of working in pits with steep sides and particularly in attempting to dig away the under soil, without removing the surface earth.—

Cuddalore
8th July 1857

I have &c
Sd/ S. A. Forbes
Dy Sup. S. Arcot

Resolved that a Copy of the foregoing letter No. 202, of the 8th July 1857, from the District Engineer of South Arcot, Reporting the death of a Coolly, and the Serious injury received by another, be submitted for the information of Government in Connexion with G. Mems. Con. No 552 of the 23d April 1856.—

True Extract/

Sd/ Faber Col
Chief Sec.

To
The Secretary to Govt
P. W. D.

Comps 818

Public Works Dept.

No. 1476.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the July 1857.

Read the following

Extracts from the Proceed-

-ings of the Chief Engineer

Here enter 18:7-21st July 1857
No 21147 22411

1. With the finish of the above Proceedings the Chief Engineer sub-mits, with reference to Extract Minute Cons. 23d June 1857 No. 1216, a further Report from Captain Skaud, Assistant Engineer in the District

Public Works Department
Consn. No. 1476 dated 1st July 1857
Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 1st July 1857
Read the following
Extracts from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer

Calcutta 21st
Regd 22nd July 1857

From Lt. Col. H. Yule
Chief Engineer

To Commr. Rajshye Div.

No. 24.

Dated 1st July 1857.

Communication from the Executive Engineer Pubna Dist. Capt. Skaud, Assistant Engineer, Pubna Dist. Lieut. Pemberton, Executive Engineer, Rajshye Dist. and Lieut. Cockburn, Executive Engineer, Bogra Dist. on the subject of the Embankments in the Pubna District.

of Coimbatore, respecting the occurrence of an accident on Trunk Road No 8 by which one man was killed and two slightly injured in dray bank, and with the record of the papers above recorded, Colonel Faber forwards a letter from the District Engineer of Coimbatore, bringing to notice the accidental death of one Coolly, and serious injury to another, at the Motatore gravel pit on Trunk Road No 8. In another letter from the Chief Engineer of the 17th Instant

(Rs 2100, deposited of) the Government were informed that from a similar cause one more individual had lost his life.

2. That the Govt remark that no less than three accidents have been reported on by the Chief Engineer within a short time from the very careless practice of allowing work people to undermine the surface of the ground. Colonel Faber will be requested to issue a Circular order

rider calling the attention of his Department to the fact that these lines have been thus book, and directing that greater attention be paid to the matter in future.

3. In neither of the first two cases noticed above, have the Engineer Officers recommended gratuities to the nearest heirs of the deceased, as required by the rules annexed in Extract from Min. of Con. 28th September 1856 No. 1687, the Chief Engineer will be good enough to ascertain the reason of this omission, and if it was unintentional, to forward an application on their behalf in the prescribed form.

J. G.

57 Copies to the Chief Engr. Dept. Pub. Wks.

Public Works 1857 Depts.
Dr to Comrs: 4th Augt

No 1476.

Extract Minis of Comrs:
Dy 30th July 1857.

Ex. from Recs. Pro. of the Chief Engr
dated 25th Sept 1857 & 7 Oct 1857
re No 1779 & 1783 Canal
15th Sept

Requesting the Chief Engr to
issue a Circular Order recall-
ing the attention of this Dept
to the fact that three lines
have been lost within a
short time from the very
careless practice of al-
lowing work people to un-
derstone the surface of
the ground & directing that
greater attention be paid
to the matter in future.

No 23 at 25.

c24 July 1858