

1. Number of pages 14
2. Date of report 5-3-38
3. Initials of Officer in Charge

M.B.O. 1-32400-22-11-20

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Para 5/11/58

G.O. No. 2301	Press Mis. —
5-6	
Dated 30-11-1858	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

5/11/58

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 5th November 1858.

No. 5. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer; to the Secretary to Government, dated 9th October 1858, No. 4387.

SIR,

In accordance with para. 3 of Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 1951, dated 22nd September 1858, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter* from the District Engineer Chingleput, together with its enclosure* from Mr. Biggers, Civil Engineer Chingleput District, submitting an explanation of the circumstances under which a convicted thief was entertained by that Officer as a Head Lascar.

2. It is represented that on taking charge of the Division, Mr. Biggers required Lascars, and that his late Writer sent for Boorankhan (the thief in question) who had hitherto been employed for many years on Trunk Road No. 8, and from the fact of having been employed at the time as Head Cooly on 7 Rupees per month, he was under the natural impression, that, that was sufficient guarantee of his respectability and consequently engaged him as a Head Lascar.

Letter from Captain A. S. MOBERLY, District Engineer of Chingleput; to Lieutenant-Colonel E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer, dated 4th October 1858, No. 693.

SIR,

With reference to Extract from your Proceedings No. 1951 of the 22nd September last, communicated with your Memorandum No. 3982 of the 24th of the same Month, I have the honor to forward the accompanying copy of a letter received from Mr. J. Biggers on the subject therein adverted to, and to inform you that the Head Cooly Boorankhan was employed for many years on Trunk Road No. 8, and was discharged in last year on account of the stoppage of works, and Mr. Biggers's late Writer was also employed under Lieutenant Falconet and Captain Dansey for a period of 3 years and I did not receive from them any complaints against him of the nature referred to, by Mr. Biggers.

Letter from J. BIGGERS, Esq., Civil Engineer, Chingleput District; to Lieutenant A. S. MOBERLY, District Engineer, Chingleput, dated Carooncooly, 2nd October 1858, No. 46.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit an explanation of the circumstances under which a convicted thief was entertained as a Head Lascar by me, when I took charge of this Division (October 29-57) I required Lascars: having had occasion to make enquiries about the Southern Trunk Road, my late Writer (also a thief) sent for Boorankhan (the thief in question) who had been employed as a Head Cooly on Rupees 7 per Month to give the information I required. Road-work being stopped he was without employment; from the fact of his having been employed as a Head Cooly on Rupees 7 per month, I took him as a Lascar, thinking that a *sufficient* guarantee of his respectability; however shortly after I began to look upon him with suspicion as he began to screen himself behind piers and pillars on my approach to the Bungalow. It was during his investigation at the Carungooly Cutcherry that the Tahsildar discovered he was a convicted thief having stolen property to the value of Rupees 206-1-10 in money and jewelry.

No. 6. ORDER THEREON, No. 2301; dated 30th October 1858.

In reply to para. 3 of Extract Minutes Consultation, 22nd September 1858, No. 1951, the Officiating Chief Engineer submits letters from the District Engineer of Chingleput and Mr. Biggers of the same District, explaining the circumstances under which a convicted thief was entertained as a head Lascar by the latter Officer. The explanation simply amounts to this that the Lascar had been previously employed as a head cooly on 7 Rupees a month on the Southern Trunk road, that this was taken by Mr. Biggers as a sufficient guarantee of the man's good character, and that the lascar was introduced to Mr. Biggers's notice by his late head writer, who he now says was himself a thief.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 5th November 1858.

2. It thus now appears that both the writer and the cooly employed by Mr. Biggers were convicted felons. These facts should impress the Officiating Chief Engineer with the necessity of seeing that proper precautions are used in entertaining servants in the Department. He does not seem to think that there was anything remarkable in such carelessness. To the Government it explains the whole matter of the robbery, and fully establishes the propriety of holding Mr. Biggers responsible for the loss of the public money, as ordered in Extract Minutes Consultation of the 22nd September.

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,
Acting Secretary to Government.

From

C. 72693
Captain. A. S. Moberly

District Engineer
of Chingleput

To

Lieutenant Colonel E. Lawford
Officiating Chief Engineer
Fort St. George

Sir

With reference to Extract from
your Proceedings, No 1951 of the 22nd September last
communicated with your Memorandum No 3982 of the
24 of the same Month, I have the honor to forward the
accompanying Copy of a letter, received from Mr. Biggers
on the subject therein adverted to, and to inform you that
the Head Cooly Boorankhan was employed for many ^{years} on
Trunk Road No 8, and was discharged in last year on
account of the stoppage of work, and Mr. Biggers late
Writer was also employed under Lieutenant Falconer
and Captain Dancer for a period of 3 years and I did not
receive from them any complaints against him of the nature
referred to by Mr. Biggers.

Chingleput Dist. Eng'g
Office Grindy.
4th October 1858.

I have the honor to be &c
1 Sgd/ A. S. Moberly Captain
District Eng'g of Chingleput
No

N^o 116

To

Lieutenant A. S. Moberly
District Engineer
Chingleput

Sir

I have the honor to submit an explanation of the circumstances under which a convicted thief was entertained as a Head Lascar by me, when I took charge of this Division / October 29-57 / I required Lascars, having had occasion to make enquiries about the Southern Tank Road my late Writer / also a thief sent for Bannaboy, who had been employed as a Head cooly on Rupees 7 per Month to give the information I required. Road work being stopped he was without employment; from the fact of his having been employed as a Head cooly, on 7 Rupees per Month I took him as a Lascar, thinking, that a sufficient guarantee of his respectability; however shortly after I began to look upon him with suspicion as he began to screen himself behind piers and pillars on my approach to the Bungalow. It was during his investigation at the Bannagooly butchery that the

Tahsildar

Tahsildar discovered he was a convicted thief having stolen property to the value of Rupees 206-1-10 in Money and jewelry.

Civil Eng's Office
Bannagooly
2 October 1858

I have the honor to be
(Signed) J. Biggers
Civil Eng. Chingleput Dist.

True copy
(Sgd) A. S. Moberly Captain
District Engineer of Chingleput

True copies
Subscribed Captain
Ag. Supt. Engineer & Clerk

Central Office of S.O.
Fort St. George
9th October 1858.

No. 4387.
From,
The Officiating Chief Engineer
To,
The Secretary to Government
P. W. D.

Sir,
In accordance with para 3 of

Enclosure 1
Extract Minutes Consultation No. 1951, dated 22nd
September 1858, I have the honor to forward copy
of a letter from the District Engineer Chingleput,
together with its enclosure from Mr. Biggers
Civil Engineer Chingleput (District), submitting
an explanation of the circumstances under which a
convicted thief was entertained by that Officer as a
Head Pascar.

2. It is represented that on taking
charge of the division Mr. Biggers required Pascars,
and that his late writer sent for Boorankhan
(the thief in question) who had hitherto been employed
for

Enclosure in a letter
from
The Off. Chief Engineer
To, The Secretary to Govt
P.W.D.
(Date) 9th October 1858.
No. 4387
M.P. 2363/58
Copies of correspondence
concerning the circumstances
under which he has entertained
a convicted thief as his Head
Pascar.

for many years on Trunk Road N^o 8, and from
the fact of having been employed at the time as
Head Cooly on 7 Rupees per month; he was...
under the natural impression, that, that was...
sufficient guarantee of his respectability and conse-
quently engaged him as a Head Pascau.

I have the honor to be
Central Office of Mr. }
Fort St. George }
9th October 1858 }
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant.

James M. Licut^{ts} Col^l.
Officiating Chief Engineer.

Dut

Extract from the Minutes of Council
 Under date the 30th October 1858

Read the following letter
 from the Off^r Chief Engineer
 (Dated 9th October 1858 No 4387)

In reply to para 3
 of Ex. Min. Cms. 22nd Sept/58,
 No 1951, the Off^r Chief Engr submit
 letters from the District Engr of
 Chingleput and Mr. Biggers of the
 same District, explaining the cir-
 cumstances under which a con-
 victed thief was entertained as a
 head lascar by the latter officer.
 The explanation simply amounts
 to this ^{had been} that the lascar was pre-
 viously employed as a head cooly
 on a month in the Southern
 Branch road, that this was taken by
 Mr. Biggers as a sufficient guaran-
 tee of ^{the man's} good character, and that
 the lascar was introduced to Mr. Biggers
 notice by his late head writer, who
 he now says was himself a thief.
 It thus ^{now} appears that both

MP
W M

Contd. 28th Sept/58/30th Oct/1858.

20th 1858
 20th 1858
 20th 1858

From

The Off^r Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary to Government

C. P. W. D.

Dated 9th October 1858

No 4387

Enclosure

Shewdng in accordance

with para 3 of Council Com.

of 14th Sept. dated 22nd Sept/58

Copy of a letter from the Dist^r

Engr. Chingleput with its enclos-
 ure explaining the circumstances
 under which a convicted thief was
 entertained by that Officer.

20th 1858

It is to be regretted that the
 Council have not been able to
 take any steps to prevent
 the introduction of such
 persons into the service
 of the Government.
 The only remedy is to
 require that all persons
 introduced into the service
 should be recommended by
 some person of high
 character and standing
 in the community.
 It is suggested that the
 Council should require
 that all persons introduced
 into the service should
 be recommended by some
 person of high character
 and standing in the com-
 munity.

the warden and the cooly employed
by Mr. Higgins were convicted
felons. These facts should impress
the off. & Chief Exr. with the ne-
cessity of seeing that proper pre-
cautions are used in entertaining
servants in the Dept. He does
not seem to think that there was
anything ^{remarkable} out of the way in such
carelessness. To the fact it explains
the whole matter of the robbery,
and fully establishes the propriety
of holding Mr. Higgins responsible
for the loss of the public money, as
ordered in Ex. Minis. Cons. of the
22nd September.

13 Copies to the Off. Exr. & District 3

Nov 28th Sept 1853 / 58. 12. 13

Wm. W. W. W. W. W.
W. W. W. W. W. W.

Wm. W. W. W. W. W.
W. W. W. W. W. W.

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W. W. W. W.

23 Oct 1853