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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1327 Press / Mis.

222-278.

Dated 11-6- 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 11th June 1862.

No. 222. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department, dated 10th June 1862, No. 2,088 :—

Requesting Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines to dispatch at once to the Seven Wells three Fire Engines with a full complement of Lascars. } (Vide Military Proceedings, 10th June 1862, Nos. 168-169.)

No. 223. ORDER THEREON, 11th June 1862, No. 1,327.

Communicated to the Acting Deputy Chief Engineer, Central Circle, for information and guidance.

(Signed) W. H. HORSLEY, Lieut.-Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

From the Acting Deputy Chief Engineer Central Circle, Chepauk, 9th June 1862, *No.* 31; *to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.*

I lose no time in laying before Government the enclosed letter from Colonel Hitchins, stating that the Pecottah-men employed at the "Seven Wells" are out on "Strike."

Enclosure.

1 *Letter from the District Engineer Presidency, No.* 392, *dated 7th June* 1862.

2. I have just received a further demi-official communication from the same Officer, informing me that the men who had been collected on the spur of the moment for temporary employment, are objected to as being of "low caste;" implying, I conclude, that by their agency the water will be polluted for drinking purposes. As however it is only to the Shipping, the Distillery and the European Barracks that the supply is intended to go, this objection may, I think, be treated as of nought; but at the same time, as the Government Pecottah-men who have behaved so outrageously, may exert an evil influence over the temporary hands, and induce them to desert also, steps must be taken to ensure independence of their machinations; and I therefore consider Colonel Hitchins' idea of employing three Fire Engines to raise water a very good one; and recommend its being acted upon by the issue of orders to the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines to despatch this number of Engines to the spot, as soon as practicable, with a full complement of Lascars, to work under Colonel Hitchins' orders, until permanent arrangements can be made.

3. As regards the reference made by Colonel Hitchins, in paragraph 2 of his letter, to Proceedings in this Office, I may remark that the Pecottah-men appear to have petitioned the Chief Engineer on 30th April last, for Compensation for Rice, and their petition having been referred to Lieutenant Colonel Carpendale, the then Officiating Deputy Chief Engineer of the Central Circle, that Officer, at the instigation of the Audit and Account Department ruled* that owing to the considerable increase which had recently been authorised to their salaries, their claim to Compensation was invalid.

* *Extract Proceedings No.* 254, *dated 7th May* 1862.

4. The inexpediency of remaining in a state of dependence for a necessary of life, (so essential to the trade of the Port, since the Shipping have scarcely any other means of supply than through the Government Establishment) upon such a class of men as the Pecottah workers, is clear; and I therefore trust Government will take into consideration the advisability of putting up an Engine, either Steam or Wind, for pumping water at the "Seven Wells," to supersede the necessity for their employment. Although the Wells are somewhat scattered, the distance of any one of them from a central point would not be more than could be arranged for by means of "flat-rods," working bell cranks, with a pump rod at each end; the extremities of the "flat-rods" being connected by eccentrics or bent cranks to a common shaft by which, motion would be communicated to the whole.

5. I should be very glad if I could induce Government to make trial in the case under consideration of the "Horizontal Windmill," a simple Engine which is used in some parts of Cornwall for "trying" Mines before outlay is incurred in erecting a Steam Engine.

6. The power of these Engines is certainly inferior to that of the vertical Mills, the ratio being as 1 : 4, about : but they possess many advantages over the latter for use in a country like this ; being of the simplest form of construction, very economical both in fabric and in working ; and I think peculiarly well adapted for raising water from shallow depths for store, as they can be left to work by themselves by night as well as by day, without any tending, so as to ensure advantage being taken of every breeze that may blow. Moreover, by simply bolting on yokes to the lower yards or arms of the Machine, they can be adapted for animal power whenever, from press of circumstances, as a continuance of calms or the like, a necessity might arise for employing Cattle to work the Pumps.

7. I annex a rough Sketch of the Horizontal Windmill, but I would endeavor to prepare a better one, if Government should deem the matter worthy their consideration. The practical effect of an Engine constructed as shewn in the Sketch, supposing the sails on one radius presented a surface of 200 superficial feet, the power of the wind one pound per superficial foot, and the mean leverage seven feet, would be half a ton per revolution; allowing one-sixteenth for counteraction as the sails come up to the wind, and a considerable deduction for friction and loss in momentum by lulls of the wind.

From the District Engineer Presidency, Madras, 7th June 1862, *No.* 392 ; *to the Deputy Chief Engineer Central Circle.*

I have the honor to report that the whole of the Pecottah-men of the Seven-Wells Water Works Establishment struck work yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

2. It was ruled in the Central Office a few days ago,* that these men were not entitled to Compensation for Rice on account of their wages having been increased considerably of late, and I believe it is on this account that they have all deserted, but as out of the fifty-five men that are engaged, twenty are on 9½ Rs., twenty-three on 8 Rupees and the remainder twelve on 7 Rupees a month, it appears to me that their demands are most unreasonable, and I have been in communication with the Commissioner of Police who is of opinion that he cannot proceed against them as there is nothing in the new Penal Code which compels a servant to work if he declines to do so.

* *7th May* 1862.

3. Some few of them assembled at my Office yesterday morning and behaved in a most improper manner, forcing themselves into my private room, from which they were with some difficulty removed by the Peon.

4. Three of the ringleaders were taken to the Police Office and the Commissioner after investigating the case, sent them for trial to the Magistrate of the District who fined them a Rupee each.

5. Upon the verdict being communicated to me, I summarily dismissed the three men above-mentioned, hoping it would have the effect of bringing the remainder to a sense of their duty.

6. Mr. Sub-Engineer Walsh, in charge of the Fort Range is engaged in collecting new Pecottah-men, and a very few will suffice at present for the Shipping, Arrack Distillery and the general public ; for the Fort, there is nothing to apprehend, as there is a sufficiency of water in the Galleries of the Sea-face for three months for the entire Garrison.

Referred to the Military Department, for consideration.

(Signed) W. H. HORSLEY, Lieut.-Colonel,
Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

10*th June* 1862.

ORDER, No. 2088, 10*th June* 1862.

Communicated to the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, with instructions to despatch at once, to the Seven Wells, three Fire Engines with a full complement of Lascars to work under Colonel Hitchins' orders, until permanent arrangements can be made for raising the water.

2. The Pay of the Lascars while so employed, and all expenses which may be incurred in consequence of this order, will be charged against the Water Works.

3. Orders will be passed hereafter on the suggestion in paragraph 5 of the foregoing letter.

(True Extract.)

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Department Public Works.
,, Inspector General of Ordnance.
,, Controller of Military Finance.
,, Military Accountant.
,, Brigade Major Fort Saint George, for information.

Exd. A. A. DeMonte.

1779

Public Letter.

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MILITARY DEPARTMENT

No. 2088.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

10th June 1862.

Read the following Paper.

From the Offg. Chief Engr. & Secy.
thro' the Secy. to Govt. P.W.D.
Intimating that the
Perrottah-Mem. Engs. at the
Seven Wells are out on "strike"
and recommending the Employ-
-ment of Fire Engines temporarily
for raising the Water. &c.

Recd. enter 9th June 1862, No. 31.

Order. Communicated to the Inspector Genl. of Ordce. and Magazines, with instructions to despatch, at once, to the Seven Wells, three Fire Engines with a full complement of Lascars to work under Colonel Ritchie's Orders, until permanent arrangements can be made for raising the Water.

2. The pay of the Lascars while

&c

to employed, and all expenses which may be incurred in consequence of this order, will be charged against the Water Works.

3. Orders will be passed hereafter on the suggestion in para 5 of the foregoing letter.

(True Extract)

A Macmillan Asst.
Dy. Secretary to Govt.

To The Executive Public Works.

Attested A. Macmillan

Draft:

No. 1324

Communicated to the Ag. Deputy Chief Engr. Circles for information & guidance.

Chepauk
11th June 1862

No. 1779.

Dated 10th June 1862
Recd 11th "

No. 2068

Remarking Inspector Genl of Ordnance's and enquiring to be informed as to what kind of wells are required for Breweries with a full complement of Vessels

No. 222. 223

No. 1327 - 11th June/62

M.S. 13 Copies.

Do

The Ag. Deputy Chief Engr. &c &c &c

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