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## MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Public works* DEPARTMENT.

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| Dated 20. 6   | 1865.            |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
20th June 1865.*

No. 490. Read the following letter from Captain A. S. MOBERLY, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp, Camalapur, 10th June 1865, No. 43 :—

SIR, 1. In continuation of my letters as per margin, I have the honor to request that you will bring to the notice of Government, for favorable consideration, the great difficulty experienced in this part of the Division in obtaining trustworthy and proper men as Lascars, for the monthly pay of Rupees 6 allowed for Lascars attached to Tāluq Overseers.

No. 55, 5th June 1865.  
" 39, 7th do. "

2. In consequence of the high prices of grain, and the daily rates for labor (I learn from Mr. Tāluq Overseer Howell, who is employed on the Toongabuddra Channels, that he seldom can get a cooly for less than 5 Annas per day, and even at that rate they will leave when the cultivation is going on) Lascars cannot be got here for Rupees 6 per mensem, and to get one to stop with him Mr. Tāluq Overseer Howell is obliged to give each man one Rupee extra monthly out of his own pocket.

3. The same difficulty is experienced throughout all the Western Tāluqs of the Bellary District, and, a short time ago, Mr. Acting Supervisor Claridge, who is in charge of the Bellary Range, reported to me that he could not get Lascars to stop with him for Rupees 6 per mensem; that he could get men for a month or two, but that just as they were becoming useful they would resign. I myself have found the same difficulty, and at this present time have been unable to complete my complement; and some of the men who are with me are merely with me temporarily, and are looking out for other situations.

4. The subject of travelling allowances for Officers and Subordinates also requires the favorable consideration of Government. A few years ago, I am informed, bandies for marching about the District could be procured for Rupees 15 per mensem, whereas now they cannot be got for less than Rupees 30. An European or Eurasian Overseer is obliged to keep a bandy to carry his tent in, or else to take shelter in during the day, and this completely swallows up the monthly allowance, and leaves nothing for the keep of his horse and wear and tear of his tent, &c.

5. A Native Overseer seldom, if ever, keeps a tent (I myself know of no instance of their keeping a tent) as there is always, in every village, some person of his caste who will give him shelter: all he requires is a pony and a cooly, and the expense of these is more than covered by the allowance of Rupees 30, and I think that the former monthly allowance of Rupees 20 was sufficient to cover the travelling expenses incurred by him.

6. I would beg to propose that the travelling allowance of the Tāluq Overseers shall be as follows:—

|                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| For Natives.....                 | Rupees 20 |
| For Europeans and Eurasians..... | " 40      |

7. In the same way there should be a proportionate rate of increase for Supervisors and Sub-Engineers; as also for the Officers of the Department Public Works, as I think that, if an enquiry is made, in no case will it be found that the travelling allowances granted cover the expenses incurred.

8. I beg you to understand that what I now state is with reference to the greater part of this Division, and may not apply to other Districts, where the rate of bandy hire is cheaper.

9. During my service in the Department Public Works I have been in several Districts in this Presidency, but in none of them have I ever found the rates and prices so high as in this Division at present: they are, I am told, higher than in the Poona and Khandeish Districts in the Bombay Presidency, where, in consequence of the high rates and prices, I believe an increase has been granted to the Officers and Subordinates of the Department Public Works proportionately to their position and former travelling allowances.

10. I trust that Government will not consider that I am stepping beyond my duty in bringing this matter to their notice, but the subject has been brought before me on several occasions, and when I have questioned the Overseers, &c., they have always stated that the travelling allowance did not cover the expenses of marching.

No. 491.

ORDER THEREON, 20th June 1865, No. 1,712.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 41.

The Government are unable to sanction any augmentation of the salaries of the Lascars employed in the 3rd Division, or to entertain the proposals contained in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the foregoing letter.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,  
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

N<sup>o</sup> 43.

Supg Engineer's Office, 3<sup>rd</sup> Div<sup>n</sup>  
Camp Kanakapur, 10 June 1865

To

Captain A. S. Moberly, R.E.  
Supg Engineer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division  
The Secretary to Government  
Public Works Department

Sir,

N<sup>o</sup> 35. 5 June 1865  
" 39. 7 - do -

In continuation of my letter as per margin, I have the honor to request that you will bring to the notice of Government, for favorable consideration, the great difficulty experienced in this part of the Division in obtaining trustworthy and proper men as Lascars, for the monthly pay of Rupees 6 allowed for Lascars attached to Talig Overseers.

2. In consequence of the high prices of grain and the daily rates for labor, (I hear from Mr. Talig Overseer Powell, who is employed on the Hon. gabuddra Channels, that he seldom can get a cooly for less than 5 annas per day and even at that rate they will leave when the cultivation is going on) Lascars can not be got here for Rupees 6 per mensem and to get out to stop with him Mr. Talig Overseer Powell is obliged to give each man Rupee extra monthly out of his own pocket.

3. The same difficulty is experienced throughout all the Western Taligs of the Bellary District, and, a short time ago, Mr. Acting Supervisor Blair who is in charge of the Bellary Range, reported to me that he could not get Lascars to stop with him for Rupees 6 per mensem; that he could get men for a month or two, but that just as they were becoming useful they would resign. I myself have found the same difficulty and at this present time have been unable to complete my complement and some of the men who are with me are more with me temporarily and are looking out for other situations.

The subject of Travelling Allowances for

Officers and Subordinates also requires the favorable consideration of Government. A few years ago, I am informed, ~~that~~ Bandies for marching about the District could be procured for Rupees 15 per mensem, whereas now they cannot be got for less than Rs. 30. An European or Eurasian Overseer is obliged to keep a Bandy to carry his tent in, or else to take shelter in during the day and this completely swallows up the monthly allowance and leaves nothing for the keep of his horse and wear and tear of his tent &c.

5. A Native Overseer seldom, if ever, keeps a tent (I myself know of no instance of their keeping a tent) as there is always, in every village, some person of his caste who will give him shelter: all he requires is a pony and a cooly and the expense of these is more than covered by the allowance of Rupees 30 and I think that the former monthly allowance of Rupees 20 was sufficient to cover the travelling expenses incurred by him.

6. I would beg to propose that the Travelling Allowance of the Taluk Overseers shall be as follows:

For Natives ————— Rupees 20.

For Europeans & Eurasians ———— 40

7. In the same way there should be a proportionate rate of increase for Supervisors and Sub Engineers; as also for the Officers of the D. P. W. as I think that, if an enquiry is made, in no case will it be found that the Travelling Allowances granted cover the expenses incurred.

8. I beg you to understand that what I now state is with reference to the greater part of this Division and may not apply to other Districts where the rate of Bandy hire is cheaper.

9. During my service in the D. P. W. I have been in several Districts in this Presidency, but in none of them have I ever found the rates and prices so high as this Division at present: they are, I am told, higher than in the Poona and Khandesh Districts in the Bombay Presidency, where, in consequence of the high rates and prices, I believe an increase has been granted to the Officers and Subordinates.

PT 1865/200  
No: of Fort St. Louis  
from No: 2123  
The Superintending Engineer  
3rd Division

The Secretary to Government  
P.W. Department  
No. 43

Dated 10.  
Recd: 14 } June 1865.

No. 1712-20 June 65

With an Order  
Bringing to notice for  
the favorable consideration of  
Government the difficulty in  
procuring Messrs for the band  
suggesting an increase to their  
pay and the insufficiency  
of the amount of travelling allowance  
for Officers & Subordinates of  
the P.W.D. and making certain  
suggestions

Establishment

No. 1712.

The Government are unable to

sanction any augmentation of the salaries  
of the Messrs employed in the 3rd Division,  
or to entertain the proposals contained in

paras 6 and 7 of the foregoing letter.

The Superintending Engineer  
Fort St. Louis  
20th June 1865

W. H. P.  
21 June