

(1) Number of pages 1-24
(2) Date of repair _____
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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 381	Press Mis.
171-73	
Dated 7. 2	1871.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1 M.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
7th February 1871.*

Read the following papers :—

Endorsement of the Judicial Department, dated 1st February 1871.

No. 171. From the District Magistrate of Tinnevely, to the Chief Secretary
to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Pudukudi, 26th January 1871,
No. 21.

In reply to your telegram, I have the honour to inform you that I am now about to commit for trial by the Sessions Court a case of cheating and forgery with intention to cheat the Government of large sums of money fully established against a Contractor named Ragava Charry in the preliminary inquiry before me ; there is, moreover, ample proof of Mr. Colquhoun's connivance and abetment in this case, and the most extraordinary disclosures have been made of a wholesale system of fraud and misappropriation of public money ; but as the Government have ordered Mr. Colquhoun to be tried by a Special Commissioner under Act XXXVII. of 1850, I have taken no proceedings against him.

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

No. 172. From RAGAVA CHARRY, Streeviguntum Anicut Contractor.

Praying that the Government may stay the proceedings of Mr Puckle, etc, in connection with work done to the Ahtoor channel, and soliciting an impartial inquiry into the matter. (Here enter, 22nd January 1871.)

No. 173. ORDER THEREON, 7th February 1871, No. 381.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 15.

As a report has been received from the Magistrate of Tinnevely of the committal of the Memorialist for trial on a charge of cheating and forgery with intention to cheat, His Excellency the Governor in Council is not prepared to pass any orders on this memorial.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To V. Ragavacharry, Contractor, Striviguntam Anicut Project.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

of 1850, I have taken no proceedings

Resd. No. 21. 311
Sincerely, Magistrate (Court Clerk)
Puducherry 26th January 1871.

From R. R. Puckle Esq.
District Magistrate

To The Honourable R. S. Ellis Esq.
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George

Sir,

In reply to your telegram,
I have the honour to inform you that I am
now about to commit for trial by the
Sessions Court a case of Cheating and
Forgery with intention to cheat the
Government of large sums of money
fully established against a Contractor
named Ragava Chari in the preliminary
inquiry before me. There is moreover am-
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of a wholesale system of fraud and
misappropriation of public money. but
as the Government have ordered
Mr. Colquhoun to be tried by a speci-
al Commissioner under Act XXXVII
of 1850, I have taken no proceedings

W. K. Seidler
District Magistrate

16. July 1902.

Washington to the
 Noble Lords of Parliament
 A. Russell
 1843/70
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Trainings to the
whole Works of Parliament.

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Dr. Gabriel Bergström

Sincerely

The Chief Secretary

St. Louis

John Dillinger

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28th } January 1871
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TESTIMONIALS
OF
RUTHNUM MUDALIAR & CO.

W. L. L. L.

—
Gleason

for 377/71

January - Feb 1910

V. Ragavachari has carried out several contracts in the Madura District amounting in the aggregate to about 3 lacs of Rupees (during the last two years) including the jail, several roads, and irrigation works, and I have been very well satisfied with the way in which he has performed the work with which he was entrusted

(Signed) C. V. WILKIESON, Co R. E.
Madura }
19th September 1868. } Superintending Engineer
8th Division.

I beg to state that V. S Ruthnun Moodahar was employed by me as a Contractor for about two years. He is very painstaking and never gave me the least trouble. I can confidently recommend him to any one requiring a Contractor for Engineering and Architectural works. I believe him to possess sufficient capital to undertake large works.

Madras. }
9th September 1869. } (Signed) H. TULLOAH
Captain R. E.

Ruthnum and Somanada Moodahar have both been employed under me as Contractors for about two years. They have neither of them ever given me any trouble, and have always conducted their works to my entire satisfaction. It is with great confidence that I recommend them to any Officer in the Department, who may be in want of Contractors. I believe them to be wealthy, and fully capable of carrying on works on a large scale.

Bangalore }
16th July 1869. } (Signed) H. TULLOAH.
Captain R. Engineers.

No. 472.

19th July 1867.

To

The Superintending Engineer
5th Division.

SIR,

I have the honor to report that I have accepted, subject to your approval, the tender of Ruthnum Moodaliar and Somanada Moodaliar, for the completion of the Female Hospital

2. As neither plan nor an estimate were properly completed at the time the tenders were called for, the tenders could not be for a lump sum, but had to be made in the form of a schedule of rates, at which the work was to be executed and paid for by measurement from time to time.

3. A copy of the schedule of the parties above mentioned is enclosed

4. You will observe that the rates vary vary little from those allowed in estimates prepared in this Office

5 Four others tenders were received, but there was little or no difference in the rates

6. The parties named are now employed on two blocks of artillery, Family Quarters on the Race-course, and have previously erected several other buildings here

7. They give great satisfaction both as to the quality of work and rate of progress, and are indeed the only Contractors now working here with whose proceedings I am thoroughly satisfied

I have &c.

(Signed) J. PENNYCUICK, Lieutenant R. E.

Ex. Engineer Bangalore.

Bangalore
July 2nd 1868.

Ruthnum Moodaliar & Co.

I have received your notes from Madura

I am sorry you are not here that I might have introduced you to Captain Wood but I have already brought your name to his notice and recommended you favorably

I must say I have been much pleased with your work and your straight-forward way of dealing and hope you may be successful in getting further contracts under Government.

Continue as you have begun. The rates are good and if you continue and give good honest work, in return you will find in the long run that it will be the most profitable way.

I shall always be glad to hear of your well doing and believe me.

Faithfully yours

(Signed) JOHN MAYNE, Captain R. E.

No. 1158.

To

The Superintending Engineer
5th Division.

SIR,

I have the honor to bring to your notice that there has been no contract signed for the work of the Female Hospital I do not think that one is required. The Contractor has and is working regularly and I have every

confidence that he will complete the work in a satisfactory manner.

2 There is however I fear a mistake as regards the time for completion on the 7th June 1867 Lieutenant Pennycuik called for tenders for the work, Ruthnum Moodahar sent in his on the 1st July, and tendered to complete the work in 9 months and 10 days and this makes the date of completion to be 10th April.

3 It is important that this work should be completed by say the 10th of March, in order that the accounts may be settled and closed before 31st of March. I think therefore that it would be advantageous to Government to give a small premium to the Contractor should he complete the work before his agreed on date. I have spoken to him on the subject and he has made what I consider, a very fair offer, and one which I request your sanction to accept.

It is if the work is completed on the
1st March Rupees 1000 premium to be paid
and the 2nd March Rupees 750 " "
" 25th Do Rupees 600 " "

The amount of the estimate is Rupees 40,900 the proposed premiums are therefore but a very small per centage on the work. I request an early reply to this application in order that the Contractor may make his arrangements

I have &c.

(Signed) H. R. MEAD, Captain R. E
Ex. Engineer Bangalore.

To

The Executive Engineer.

Bangalore.

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you in reply to your letter of the 19th of July No 472 that I have no objection to the tender of Ruthnum Moodahar and Somanada Moodahar & Co. for the completion of the Female Hospital being accepted, judging from the work already done by them, I have no doubt they will give more satisfaction than the original Contractor. They should however be informed that the acceptance of their tender will be subject to the approval of the revised plan and estimate by Government.

2 I request you will let me have the revised plan and estimate as soon as possible that I may forward them for the sanction of Government. The work need not be stopped pending the receipt of the orders of Government.

I have &c.

(Signed) E. A. FORD, Lieutenant Col R. E
Superintending Engineer
5th Division

Madras Railway District 3 B B.
12th 3 March 1862

To

V. S. Ruthna Moodahar & Co.

In reply to your offer to contract for Boring &c at 5 annas per cubic foot, I think you mean lenial foot however, I do not give the work out per lenial foot but cubic foot, cubic yards in the solid on filed out side and if you wish you can bring fresh labourers with you from distant villages

or country I will pay a little higher rate than the present contracts for any description of work

Earth work, rock cutting or deliver stones for Bridges on the 1st section providing you bring coolies from a distant country and fresh people to the District.

(Signed) JOHN WHITLOCK
Engineer District 3 B B

Ruthnum Moodaliar & Co

The contract has not yet been given and if you come up at once to Tanjore and make a reasonable offer you will have a very good chance of obtaining the work

You should come up at once

Tanjore } (Signed) W. R. MEAD, Captain R. E.
1st May }

Ruthnum Moodaliar & Co

I have received your letter, and am sorry to hear you are unwell I hope you will come back as soon as possible, until I see you I cannot make any arrangement for carrying out the work, and I am anxious to begin it as soon as possible

(Signed) JOHN PENNYCUICK Lieut R. E
Ex Engineer.

Camp near Cumbum }
27th December 1868 }

Ruthnum Moodaliar & Co

The work of the *New Court House* here in Tanjore is sanctioned and tenders for the work are to be received on the 30th of this month

If you think it would suit you to tender for the contract either come down yourself, or send one of your partners or an intelligent agent to see the plans specification &c also the conditions of contract and also to make enquiries of rates of labour and materials here

All informations can be seen in my Office at Tanjore

(Signed) W. R. MEAD, Captain R. E.
Tanjore }
20th April 1868 }

Ruthnum Moodaliar & Co

You cannot begin work on the Cumbum road for the next two months, as the country is too feverish during April and May for work to be carried on there, and before you begin work some arrangement must be made with regard to terms No estimate has been yet made for the road, but I shall be prepared to consider any offer you may make.

You can either tender at a schedule of rates for the different kinds of work required (earth work, blasting, metalling, brick work for bridges) or if you prefer it, at so much per running yard for road, including all ordinary earth work, metalling and riveting, masonry, blasting and any *extra* embankments to be paid for separately In the latter case you must remember that the road has to be cut out of the side of a hill, which is very steep in some places, and less so in others. Your rate should

allow for raising the earth taken from the cutting on one side, for the embankment on the other

I shall be glad to hear from you as soon as possible

Address *Madura*.

(Signed) JOHN, PENNYCLICK, R. E.

Madura

2nd April 1869. }

Ex Engineer.

Ruthnum Moodahar & Co

I have received the half notes sent by you (5 notes of Rs. - 100 each) and will hand them over to your Goomastah on the first opportunity.

I wish to see you before coming to any final decision about the road

Periaur

11th July 1869. }

(Signed) J PENNYCLICK.
Ex. Engigeer.

Extract from a letter from Collector of Tinnevelly to Government dated 30th December 1869. No. 491.

* * * *

Para 3: Thanks to the energy displayed by all work has been most vigorously pushed on everywhere, and payments *partially* made. All the great Tambrapooianany channels in the river irrigated valley are in working order, and the Peshanum crop under them may be considered safe, and this is saying a great deal, considering that a month ago seven lacs of Revenue, representing upwards of twenty lacs of crop was in imminent peril

Para 5. The extensive damages to the Cadamba, Velur, and Streeviguntum tanks in Tenkerai are repaired, and

Mr. Grigg yesterday wrote to me an encouraging report from that Taluk (*Tenkerai*) as follows

"I have finished the inspection of all the river-fed tanks and have visited many of the rain-fed, I am glad to tell you that so far things are very satisfactory and the ryots hope to save most of the present rice crop. There is at least one month's supply in all the tanks I have seen, and the breaches are closed. The ryots are confident that they will have sufficient water to bring the crop through."

Para 6. The fact that so much work has been done and so rapidly is owing to the Contractor for Streeviguntum Anicut having taken up most of the Estimates and completed the works, leaving the balance Rupees 20,000 for Tinnevelly and Tenkerai to be paid from the fresh grant.

(True Extract)

PN 377/71
Dated 27th Feb 1912

To
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Madras

The humble memorial of
Ragavachari of the Firm of Ragh-
nathi Mudaliar and Co, Contractors
for the Arriogoonkurru Ancient Project
Most Respectfully sheweth

That your humble memorial-
ist, after enduring for the last fortnight
considerable hardships and from abuse
at the hands of the Superintending
Engineer Major Payne & caused a black-
guard and a liar in the presence of
Lieut. the phed (as telegraphed to you on
the 20th inst.:- without any cause - your
humble memorialist would therefore
most respectfully beg to lay the case
before Government for their generous
and early consideration in the hopes
that you will be pleased to extend to
wider him that early protection, which
the nature of the case, calls for, and
which is as follows

2 - That some time ago certain villages
of Ahtor, were instigated by one Motkar
(of Inticor, and lately a P.W. Con-
tractor for Road No 8) to prefer a com-
plaint to the Collector that the emer-
gent work done to the Ahtor (Chann-
el No 69) was not executed according
to Estimate framed by Engineering
Department. Upon receipt of this
petition Mr. Cusker immediately took

depositions on oath from these villagers, and referred the petition to District Surveying Engineer, who forwarded it to Mr. McNair, who after some days proceeded to Ahtor to check the work alone - not thinking it proper (for a purpose of his own) to take with him either the Overseer who superintended the work, or your memorialist, or any of his (your memorialist's) assistants or agents to point out the work done.

3 Your humble memorialist would most respectfully submit that in justice to himself and form that it was Mr. McNair's bounden duty to have given both the Overseer & himself (your memorialist) notice to be present, more especially when such grave imputations had been alleged, and considering that Mr. McNair had only joined the Range in Sept. last & relied on Colgan's aid & consequently would be unable to say what work had been executed in 1869, unless the same was pointed out to him.

4. Several of the pits were dug in adjoining Nunjah and Nanjah fields, which have been ploughed up & cultivated (H) for some time since the excavations were made, but for all this Mr. McNair made no allowance for the preliminary work necessary in clearing extensive breaches - for the great wastage of earth consequent on a rush of water when digging a breach until both ends are united, & for the loss occasioned by the great flood in Decr 1869. Neither has any allowance been made for filling in the large holes caused by the scour. Hence your humble memorialist would most respectfully submit that such a check would necessarily be incomplete, yet with all this Mr. Buckle has

thought proper upon this sole information to charge your memorialist with cheating under Sections 417 and 418 of the Indian Penal Code.

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5. Your humble memorialist therefore respectfully begs that Government will be pleased to protect him so far as by appointing an Officer from some other district to examine the work in question taking with him both the Overseer and your memorialist who is prepared to shew the work done and satisfactory.

6. Your memorialist would further most respectfully call the attention of Govt. to the fact, that in conjunction with himself, the Overseer, Gobramonia Pillai, who both superintended & submitted bill for this same work was also charged under the same Section, but consequent on the very illegal, tyrannical & harsh proceedings brought to bear upon him by the Collector by threatening him with jail, in his private house and after having him tutored by the Hojjar Oheristadar and Shasildar of Shencarai, this man to save himself from the disgrace & disfigurement that was made to hang over his head, has made certain false allegations in the shape of a Confession, with the view of being admitted an approver, that being the reward held out to him by Mr. Buckle and his Subordinates, for this man to falsely accuse innocent people. And even for argument sake, your memorialist would venture to submit that even if such allegations were true, is it upon the oath of such a man who by his very act shews himself a perjurer & a villain to be condemned. Your Mem.

oriatist is prepared to shew from sound and valid documentary evidence (papers in this man's own hand writing) that the statements he has now made under pressure are false, and your memorialist would respectfully submit that he has no doubt that if Government would be pleased to order a Commission to enquire into this matter by gentlemen totally unconnected with this District, so that the fear and dread now hanging over this man might be removed (He (your memorialist) has no doubt that an admission would be made equally good if not better than the present), of the amount of pressure brought to bear upon him by Mr Puckle together with Major Payne, & Mr McNair, who are as one, to make these false allegations, and that it was under such pressure he made them knowing them to be false.

7 Again your memorialist would respectfully submit for the kind consideration of Government the amount of pressure brought to bear upon him self by Mr Puckle with the view to screen & vindicate Major Payne in his late allegations against Mr Colglahoun.

8 - That for the last week Mr Puckle has been sending for your memorialist and holding out threats and promises to him (your memorialist) to induce him to make general allegations with the view to criminate Mr Colglahoun, & on your memorialist declining to accede to these illegal requests he received on the night of the 19th instant a summons to appear before the Collector at Meerpoornum (14 miles distance from Palamcottah) - whether he (the Collector) had gone that the matter may be less public & their purpose more effectually carried out. At 10 o'clock the next day, being in the meanwhile under the surveillance of the Theencari Shasildar, to answer

a charge of cheating under Section 417 of the Penal Code. - That on the next day the 20th - No enquiry took place, in fact so far as your memorialist is ^{15 M} aware of, no trial or enquiry has taken place beyond certain frequent & private interviews, in which your memorialist until yesterday was not allowed to be present. - That when present, if he attempted to cross examine any of the numerous witnesses who have been pressed for the sole purpose of giving false evidence against your memorialist, he is either stopped by Mr Puckle from doing so, or that gentleman makes reply to it himself, being one suitable for his own purpose. - That he has been requested by Mr Puckle thro' the Theencari and Shasildar to give a deposit of Rs (20,000) Twenty thousand to cover the amount Mr Puckle imagines and presumes your memorialist has cheated. That your memorialist offered to do so under agreement - of which the enclosed is a copy of that which was drawn up on stamp paper. - That this not meeting with Mr Puckle's views he declined, at the last hour, accepting, - & proceeded with the enquiry, which in the way it is being held is nothing more than a mockery of justice.

9 - That although your memorialist has given bail for his appearance whenever & where called upon to the extent of Rupees (2000) Two thousand, still, he is not allowed the free liberty of a subject, as persons are ordered constantly to watch your memorialist, so that he is not allowed a moment's freedom; all his movements and actions being watched, in fact to such a degree of tyranny is your memorialist subjected, that he is not even allowed that privacy to indulge

in the ablutions which his caste imposed on him, or even to go to answer the calls of nature, without being guarded and watched by the collector's peons, and this too, after giving bail on a charge even if true, is yet bailable.

10 - That although to day, being Sunday, still with the view to having your memorialist condemned before the arrival of the Commissioner government has appointed to investigate the allegations preferred against Mr Colquhoun, by Major Payne, which the latter Officer now dreading, - knowing well that such cannot be proved - is still at this moment while your memorialist's plea is drawing up this memorial to government. Sunday and all - going on with the enquiry, - thinking by a summary and illegal trial and conviction of your memorialist to vindicate Major Payne's conduct, and by so doing bringing it as crimination evidence against Mr Colquhoun also.

11 - Your humble memorialist would venture to most respectfully ask government if such unjust and illegal proceedings are sanctioned by law - more especially after government has appointed a Special Commissioner to enquire into their matters in Mr Colquhoun's case, and in which, doubtless, your memorialist would have been called upon to give evidence -

12 - Again your memorialist would most respectfully ask government upon what authority Mr Puckle has taken upon himself to investigate this matter - being a purely departmental matter, one to be enquired into by

Public Works Officers only, unless for should appoint a special Commissioner - which has not been done - 17th

13. Has this matter ever been reported to government by Major Payne, or any other of the Public Works Department, that your memorialist has been cheating government? Has any Public Works Officer, at his own instance, or at the instance of your memorialist, preferred a complaint in writing as required by law - and corroborated such statement on oath - to Mr Puckle to authorize and justify these illegal proceedings? If so, where is such complaint? If not, your memorialist would most respectfully submit that it was, and is, Mr Puckle's bounden duty to ignore all other complaints, from extraneous channels - this conclusion your memorialist ventures most respectfully to submit has the sanction of law, while the present proceedings have not - but are merely done to answer a purpose, viz that of screening Major Payne from the consequences of his own doings and because government had been pleased to appoint a gentleman totally unconnected with this District to enquire into allegations made by Major Payne, on a rash moment, and it is worthy of remark that these proceedings have not taken

place after such appointment.

14 In Conclusion Your humble
Memorialist would cast himself
upon the justice and generosity
of government for their protection
and prays that government will
be pleased to issue early instructions
by telegraph to Mr Pickens to release
your Memorialist and stay all
further proceedings - and that if
government thinks it necessary to
appoint a special Commission to
enquire into your Memorialist's con-
duct, - which they now Court. - in the
hope and assurance that if fair
play and an impartial enquiry
takes place they will be able to clear
themselves satisfactorily of all and
any imputations that may be alleged
against him

15- Your Memorialist begs to submit
for the kind consideration of govern-
ment a book of the Testimonials
of his Honor, which no doubt will
assure government that they have
never been guilty of malpractices -
far from it - the letter of the late
Acting Collector Mr. Sangley to govern-
ment goes far to shew that they
have had the interests of govern-
ment always at heart and
that too at a trying moment
when government Revenue
was in imminent jeopardy.
Your Memorialist would

further beg to inform government
that owing to his being kept under
close surveillance he has authorized ¹⁹¹¹
his relative Pheskieung to have
this memorial drawn up & signed
by him for submission to government

Therefore again prays
that government will not delay
interfering in this matter and
thus protect their humble memor-
ialist from disgrace & further
oppression as Mr Quaker & Major
Payne if not stopped at once
into effectually bring such a
disgrace upon your humble
memorialist, that he would
not be able to survive it

For which act of Justice
and goodness your Humble
Memorialist shall as on duty
bound

Over pray—

Palmycottah
January 22nd 1871

Meicheng for Rajawachan

[illegible]

No 6. 1871/100. 65

Jan 112

for

From
 Pagavachari
 Srivignanthan
 Amant Contractor
 Dated 22nd Dec 1871.
 Recd. 26th Dec 1871.
 The Govt. may please
 the proceeding of the
 Public 9th in connection
 with well done to the
 Altam Channel &
 indicating an important
 carrying into the
 matter -
 No 381-7 dated 1/2/71

1871, Dec 22nd
 Govt. of Madras
 No 377

Public Works Department

No 381

21M

Proceedings of the Madras Government
 under date 7th Feb 1871.
 Read the following

From.

The District Magistrate
 Tinnevely (No. 6. 1871. 21. 926th January 1871.)

Pagavachari Srivignanthan & Co. of 22nd - do - do
 Amant Contractor

N.

As a report has
 been received from the
 Magistrate of Tinnevely
 of the committal of the
 memorialist for trial
 on a charge of cheating
 and forgery with inten-
 tion to cheat, ~~the Govt.~~
 His Excellency the Governor
 in Council is not pre-
 pared to pass any
 orders on this memorial.

15

By
 Pagavachari
 Contractor Srivignanthan
 Amant project

to s-desk 7/2/71
 [Signature]

Curran

151

Further Rec. of 500 D/25-2-71

17-1-71

6 Feb 71/71 A. 65

112 577 490

Govt of 1871 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To V. Narayanaiah Contractor,
Muvattupuzha
Private.

Dated

Recd.

G. O. 7 Feb 71, No. 381

Nos. 171-172 & 173

Memorial. V. Narayanaiah
Contractor, informs that as
he has been convicted for
fraud on a charge of cheating &
paying, no orders can be
passed on his Memorial.

16 Feb 71 R. 65