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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1767	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
145-146		
Dated	9. 7.	1873.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
9th July 1873.*

No. 145. Read the following letter from Major J. O. HASTED, R.E., District Engineer, Kistna District, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Masulipatam, 17th May 1873, No. 22 :—

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith letters* as per margin relating to certain charges brought against Taluq Overseer P. Ramanarrain Ponday.

No. A of 18th March 1873, from Range Officer.

No. 27 of 25th April do.

Explanation from Overseer, dated 11th May 1873

* To be returned.

2. Certain petitions were sent to this office containing complaints from villagers against the Overseer, the gist

of which was that the Overseer did not properly regulate the irrigation and drainage of their lands, and took bribes; the petitions were sent to the Range Officer for report, and the result of his inquiries is detailed in his letter No. 27, dated 18th March. In this letter he also brought to notice that complaints had been laid against the Overseer by lascars and others of his taking money from them. The charges were of so serious a nature that I directed the Range Officer to charge the Overseer with bribery before a Magistrate, and pending this inquiry I suspended the Overseer. The date on which he was suspended was the 28th March 1873. The Range Officer by a mistake brought the charges before the Tahsildar, and was informed that he had no authority, whereon he referred the matter to the Collector; before, however, the letter to the Collector was despatched, the Overseer came to the Range Officer and, as he told me, confessed that he was guilty of the charges. This was officially reported to me on the 25th April, the letter to the Collector having been retained and as the Overseer's verbal confessions were very vague, I sent him copy of the Range Officer's letter for his explanation. His letter enclosed is the explanation.

3. I do not attach much value to the explanations offered by the Overseer. He allows that he took certain sums of money from persons residing in his taluq, and had used his influence to make his subordinates pay money to others, and says that in the one case he took presents because it was customary, hinting that he returned equivalent gifts to the donors, and in the other he thought he was doing no wrong. As regards the complaint that he neglected to take measures for protecting the crops in his charge, and gave the villagers to understand that a present would ensure his attention to them, I have only the Range Officer's assurance to guide me that the Overseer neglected to do what he should have done, and the request of several villagers for his removal leads me to suppose that he has not treated them properly.

4. The Overseer left the College on the 31st May 1869 and joined this district on the 22nd April 1870. The general opinion of the officers now in the district to whom he is known is not favourable to him, but the only time that specific complaint was made against him was since I took charge of the district and was brought to my notice by the Collector. The Overseer was then concerned with others in a magisterial case, and from what transpired in the inquiry it was evident had neglected his duty. I then fined him 5 rupees. He is young and may possibly amend as he promises, and I would recommend that instead of being

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
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punished by dismissal, he should be allowed a trial in another district. It is not, I think, advisable that he should be re-instated in this district, as the subordinates and villagers are so much against him that he could not have a fair trial.

No. 146.

ORDER THEREON, 9th July 1873, No. 1,767.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 16.

THE appointment and dismissal of
duly qualified Overseers rest with Dis-
trict Engineers, and His Excellency the

Governor in Council is certainly not disposed to recommend, much less to order, the entertainment in any other district of an Overseer of whom the District Engineer of the Kistna desires to be rid, and apparently with good reason.

2. The general opinion of the officers in the district is stated not to be favourable to P. Ramanarrain Ponday. The Assistant Engineer, under whose immediate orders he was, reports him as no doubt guilty of the most grave offences, and liable to severe punishment were the law to take its course. The man himself allows that he took money from persons in his taluq, and used his influence to make his subordinates pay money to others. The District Engineer attaches but little value to his explanations of such proceedings. The responsibility of retaining his services, under such circumstances, must rest therefore with the latter officer.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Kistna, with three Enclosures.

P. W. D.

1767

Proceedings of the Madras Government,

Under date the

187 .

Read the following:—

The Dist. Eng. Kistna (R.E. No. 22 of 17 May/73)

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G.M.M.

George Hamilton
July

No 145.46.

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J.R. Reith with
3 Encls.

Pl. C. E. College the
Director of Public Instruction ✓

Dec 18/73
Geo. Hamilton

No. 3114
Govt. of 1873 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To The District Commr.
Kistna

Dated

Recd.

Encl

G. O. of July 1873, No. 1467.

No. 1467/46

Ramanarayan Prasad,
Sub. Engineer, Kistna
Re. Passing orders on
letter from the S. E. Eng.,
Kistna, forwarding
correspondence relating
to certain charges
preferred against
Engineer Ramanarayan.