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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works DEPARTMENT

|          |       |             |
|----------|-------|-------------|
| G.O. No. | 2301A | Press       |
| B.P. No. |       | Mis.        |
| 267-267A |       |             |
| Dated    | 14-9. | 195<br>1873 |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
17th September 1873.*

No. 267. Read the following letter from J. W. RUNDALL, Esq., District Engineer, Tinnevely, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Palamcottah, 19th August 1873, No. 73 :—

I HAVE the honour to request that Overseer Kistnasawmy Moodelly may be dismissed from the service on the grounds—  
One Extract from the old Service Register Book.

I.—Of general untrustworthiness.

II.—Of general incompetence.

2. I am unable to bring forward specific charges against Kistnasawmy Moodelly. Some were preferred before I took charge of the district, but Kistnasawmy was at that time absent on sick leave, and continued absent till May last; when I wished to investigate them this month, the party preferring them stated that owing to the time which had elapsed his witnesses were scattered, and he was not able to substantiate them.

3. In 1868, when employed under Assistant Engineer Mr. Hawksworth, in the Ambasamoodrum Taluq, Kistnasawmy was detected in making fraudulent measurements in road material, and was suspended by that gentleman. Captain (now Major) Prendergast, R.E., then Superintending Engineer, reinstated him on condition that he paid up the sum of Rupees 368-10-0 which, by the measurement of a second officer, Mr. Roberts, he was proved to have overcharged, and transferred him to the Nanguneri Taluq under Colquhoun, at the latter's request.

4. The evidence given in Colquhoun's trial served to show that Kistnasawmy was in his confidence, and by no means an unwilling agent in assisting him in the frauds he perpetrated. Chokalingam Pillay, then 3rd Range Officer, mentioned in his evidence at Colquhoun's trial that Kistnasawmy was placed in the Nanguneri Taluq at Colquhoun's request, and assisted him and the contractors. He referred to the Subsidiary Jail at Nanguneri, (for the state of which work see G. O., No. 1,261, of 8th May 1871,) the Tessianveli and Tirukurangudi roads, as samples of Kistnasawmy's handiwork. The Overseer's own evidence shows that he knew what was going on.

5. Since 1871, Kistnasawmy has been employed in the Strivilliputtoor Taluq, principally under Mr. McNair, Sub-Engineer. Mr. McNair requested that he might have a competent Overseer sent him in Kistnasawmy's place, and states that "he is the most ignorant Overseer I ever had under me. He does not understand the orders sent to him, cannot frame simple estimates correctly, and behaves so deceitfully towards his subordinates and contractors that he is liked by no one."

6. Mr. Berlie, Supervisor, under whose immediate orders he has recently been working, informs me that he has received complaints from the villagers regarding Kistnasawmy's delays in measuring, and that he is generally mistrusted by them.

7. Mr. Grant, to whose range I have recently transferred him, thinking that he will be under the close supervision of an active officer, protests against the transfer on the ground "that he is incompetent and was certainly at one time

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17th September 1873.*

dishonest." He was under Mr. Grant's orders for a short time in 1870, and his character and qualifications are therefore known to that gentleman.

8. I feel myself that it is impossible to place that confidence in him which is necessary for works in his charge to go on satisfactorily, and it is unfair to ask a Range Officer to undertake the duties of a detective in addition to the usual checking of work.

9. In the absence of recent specific instances of fraud, I do not like to take upon myself to dismiss Kistnasawmy, but have no hesitation in saying that he is unworthy of, and unfit for his position, and beg to recommend his dismissal.

10. I forward an extract from the old Service Register Book of the district, from which this man's antecedents can be understood. It is astonishing that, with the remarks recorded against him, Kistnasawmy Moodelly should, in January 1866, have been appointed a confirmed Overseer by Captain Prendergast, R.E. He has not passed any departmental tests.

11. Should you wish it, I will furnish the Overseer with a copy of this letter, and submit any remarks he may have to make regarding it.

No. 267-A.

ORDER THEREON, 17th September 1873, No. 2,301-A.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 28.

THE Tinnevelly District Engineer is fully competent to dispense with the services of an Overseer of Kistnasawmy Moodelliar's former antecedents and present general reputation. And His Excellency the Governor in Council agrees with him in opinion that his appointment by Major H. L. Prendergast as an Overseer in 1866 under the circumstances of his former rejection, recorded in his Service Register of 1863, without much fuller report concerning him than was actually made, was not justifiable.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,

*Secretary to Government.*

To the District Engineer, Tinnevelly.

.. Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts.

.. Principal of the Civil Engineering College, through the Director of Public Instruction.

Exd. S. T. Austin.  
Spare Copies.

③

Some interesting anecdotes are contained therein.

[illegible]

Enclose in a letter  
from the District Eng.  
Tinnevely N. 73. of  
the 19. August 1873.

The Chief Engineer  
Sewy. & Govent.  
P.W.D.

Service Register of  
Taluk, Poreer this  
Krisnamy, Moolah  
G.A. No. 2201-17  
September 1873  
P.W. 4660/73.

No. 73. District Eng. Office, Tinnevely.  
Palamcottah 19<sup>th</sup> August 1873.  
From: J. W. Randall Esquire  
District Engineer, Tinnevely.  
To: Colonel G. W. Walker R.C.  
Chief Engineer & Secretary to Govt.  
P. W. D.  
Sir,  
I have the honor to request that Overseer  
Krisnamy, Moolah, may be dismissed from the  
Service on the grounds  
I. of general untrustworthiness.  
II. of general incompetence.  
2. I am unable to bring forward specific charges  
against Krisnamy, Moolah. Some were preferred  
before I took charge of the District, but Krisnamy  
was at that time absent on sick leave, and continued  
absent till May last; when I wished to investigate  
them this month, the party preferring them stated that  
owing to the time which had elapsed his witnesses were  
scattered, and he was not able to substantiate them.  
3. In 1868 when employed under Assistant Engineer  
Mr. Hawksworth in the Ambacamoodum Taluk  
Krisnamy was detected in making fraudulent  
measurements in Road material, and was suspended  
by that gentleman. Captain (now Major) Prendergast  
R.C. then Superintending Engineer reinstated him, on  
condition

Enclosure 1.  
1. Extract from  
the old Service  
Register Book.

condition that he paid up the sum of Rs. 368.10-0, which by the measurement of a second Officer Mr. Roberts he was proved to have overcharged and transferred him to the Manguneri Taluq under Bolghourn at the latter's request.

4. The evidence given in Bolghourn's trial served to show that Kristnasamy was in his confidence, and by no means an unwilling agent in assisting him in the frauds he perpetrated. Chokalingam Pillay then 3<sup>d</sup> Range Officer mentioned in his evidence at Bolghourn's trial that Kristnasamy was placed in the Manguneri Taluq at Bolghourn's request, and assisted him and the Contractors. He referred to the subsidiary Jail at Manguneri (for the state of which work see G.O. No. 1261 of 8<sup>th</sup> May/77) the Jessanveli and Tirukurangudi Roads, as samples of Kristnasamy's handiwork. The Overseer's own evidence shows that he knew what was going on.

5. Since 1871 Kristnasamy has been employed in the Strivilliputtur Taluq, principally under Mr. Macrae Sub Engineer. Mr. Macrae has requested that he might have a competent Overseer sent him in Kristnasamy's place and states that "he is the most ignorant Overseer I ever had under me. He does not understand the orders sent to him, cannot frame simple Estimates correctly, and behaves so deceitfully towards his subordinates & Contractors that he is liked by no one."

6. Mr. Beale Supervisor under whose immediate orders he has recently been working informs me that he has received complaints from the Villagers regarding

Kristnasamy's delays in measuring and that he is generally mistrusted by them.

7. Mr. Grant to whose Range I have recently transferred him, thinking that he will be under the close supervision of an active officer, protests against the transfer on the ground "that he is incompetent and was certainly at one time dishonest". He was under Mr. Grant's orders for a short time in 1870, and his character and qualifications are therefore known to that gentleman.

8. I feel myself that it is impossible to place that confidence in him which is necessary for works in his charge to go on satisfactorily and it is unfair to ask a Range Officer to undertake <sup>the</sup> duties of a detective in addition to the usual checking of works.

9. In the absence of recent specific instances of fraud, I do not like to take upon myself to dismiss Kristnasamy, but have no hesitation in saying that he is unworthy of & unfit for his position, and beg to recommend his dismissal.

10. I forward an Extract from the old Service Register Book of the District from which this man's antecedents can be understood. It is astonishing that with these remarks recorded against him, Kristnasamy should in January 1866, have been appointed a confirmed Overseer by Captain Prendergast R.C. He has not passed any departmental tests.

11. Should you wish it I will furnish the  
Overseer with a copy of this letter and submit any  
remarks he may have to make regarding it.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most Obedt Servt

L. W. Russell

District Engineer, Summerville.

-261.

My Dear Sir,  
The Summerville District  
Engineer is fully confident in the  
honesty and the service of an  
overseer of the Summerville - Northville  
forming and building to present  
general reputation. And it is  
the opinion of the committee  
him in opinion that his appointment  
by proper it is. I understand as an  
overseer in 1866 under the circumstances  
of his office reputation secured in his  
service and records of 1868, without much  
of the Summerville reports concerning him from more  
of the Summerville and his not profitable. L. W. Russell

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P. 6 Oct 23 Oct 73

P.W. 1873 Depart  
No. 73.

From No. 4660.

The District Engineer  
Tinnevely

The Chief Engineer  
Secret Government  
S. D.

Dated 19  
Rec. 13 } August 173.  
Encl. 1.

Recommends the  
dismissal of Salug  
overseer Kristnasamy  
moodaly on the grounds  
of unfitness for his  
position.

Mr 660  
Govt. of 1873 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The District Engineer  
Tinnevely

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1873. 2304

Nos. 264-264A

Valuing Overseer Dist.

Narasimma Moorthy.

The District Engineer  
informed that he is  
fully competent to  
discharge with the  
services of the Overseer