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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	599	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	2 - 3 -	1875
		195

Original

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1A

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd March 1875.*

No. 76 Read the following endorsement of the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, dated 3rd February 1875 —
From H S. THOMAS, Esq, Magistrate of Tanjore, to the Honorable D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Tanjore, 30th January 1875, No 90.

WITH reference to the Order of Government, dated 16th September 1874, No. 1,719, I have the honor to submit copy of a report from the Deputy Magistrate in charge of the Tanjore Division regarding the circumstances attendant upon the death of Thangamuttu Vellavaran, the cooly referred to

2. I agree with the Deputy Magistrate in thinking that the conduct of Maistry Panchanada Cottan, who was in charge of the work on the Vadavaur scouring sluice, is reprehensible. I have ascertained from the District Engineer that he absented himself without leave to attend the Saptastanam festival at Trivady on the day on which Thangamuttu was killed, and that when he was put in charge of the work at the Vadavaur scouring sluice he had no other work to attend to.

3. Under these circumstances, and considering that the steepness of the slopes to the excavations for the foundations was the main cause of the accident, I am of opinion that the maistry failed to take all reasonable precautions to prevent accident.

4. Panchanada Cottan appears to have been employed as a temporary maistry upon job works, and as he is no longer in employ he cannot be punished departmentally, and as it is not he that is fairly answerable for the slope which it was that was really at the bottom of the accident, I do not think he is criminally punishable.

From A STRENEEVASA ROW, Deputy Magistrate of Tanjore Division, to H S THOMAS, Esq, District Magistrate of Tanjore, dated Tanjore, 17th October 1874, No 208.

WITH reference to your docket, herewith returned, of the 22nd ultimo, No 411, on the Government Order of the 16th idem, I have the honor to submit the information therein called for by Government, regarding the accidental death, on the 2nd May last, of a cooly named Thangamuttu Vellavaran at the Vadavaur scouring sluice works in the Tanjore Taluk

2 The following parties have been examined —

1 Rama Vellavaran, step brother of the deceased Thangamuttu

2 Vaidi Virudalan, } Coolies.

3 Gurunaden, }

4 Venailitta Virudalan, Village Munsiff of Kovilpattu

5. Sheik Husin, Head Constable in charge of the Boodalore Station

6 Panchanada Cottan, Maistry or Monigar in charge of the work

7 Kannusami Cottan, a bricklayer

3 On the 2nd of May the excavation was completed by about 4 P.M. The bricklayers, Kannusami Cottan and Renga Rajah, at once commenced to work at the west wing and were laying the first layer of bricks there without allowing the northern and southern sides of the excavation to settle for a day or two. Thangamuttu Vellavaran was handing over bricks and other materials to the bricklayers who were at work. These were the only three persons that were at work at the foundations. The coolies Vaidi and Gurunaden and certain boy coolies were engaged at some distance from the foundations in removing prickly-pear, etc.

4 Panchanada Cottan, the maistry who was in charge of the work, and whose pay was 15 Rupees a-month, was unfortunately absent on that day at Trivady. Instead of being present at the work, particularly when the excavation was completed and the masonry work commenced, he went to Trivady for the Saptastanam festival. He asserts that he had under his charge the Vettaur sluice work as well as the Vadavaur sluice work.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd March 1875

5 Renga Rajah, one of the two bricklayers who were at work, was also the head-cooly and as such he had to take work from the other coolies. Kannusami Cottan and Renga Rajah were of course seated at the north side of the excavation and doing their work. Thangamuttu was standing. Kannusami Cottan states that at about 6 p.m. Thangamuttu all on a sudden ran to the southern side of the excavation, to ascend the slope and to effect his escape, having apparently apprehended the falling of a mass of earth from the north side, but in the meanwhile a large mass of earth fell down and struck Thangamuttu against the southern side, and smashed his left face, left cheek, and left thigh. He was completely buried in earth, his white head cloth alone being visible. The top of the heap of the earth which fell down is described to be a hard block. This hard block struck Thangamuttu against the southern side, while he was just then to ascend the slope, and killed him, while loose earth fell upon the bricklayers who were seated near the spot and buried them in their sitting posture up to their waist. Renga Rajah was, however, able to extricate himself without the aid of any person. Kannusami Cottan was not able to rise without the help of other coolies. These two bricklayers received very slight injuries, the portion of earth that fell upon them having been loose. Kannusami, however, states that he was suffering from pain in the testicles for two or three days.

6 The bricklayer Kannusami Cottan and the coolies Vaidi and Gurunaden state that there was no heavy fall of rain on the previous day, but that there was only a slight shower, such as a few drops which generally moisten veshti cloths.

7 Under these circumstances, I am unable to conclude that all reasonable precautions were taken to prevent the accident. The native coolies are generally proverbial for their recklessness and unable to foresee accidents of this kind. Had the maistry, who understands the nature of the work in question, been present, and watched the excavation, he would have, I think, warned the coolies at work of the accident.

8 The statements taken from the parties named in paragraph 2 are herewith submitted.

FORWARDED to the Public Works Department with reference to the Order in that department, No. 2,553, dated 9th September 1874.

(Signed) D F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Chief Secretary.

No 77.
ORDER THEREON, 2nd March 1875, No 599.
ESTABLISHMENT, No 5

It appears from the report of the Magistrate of Tanjore that the Maistry Panchanada Cottan, who was in immediate charge of the scouring sluice near the head of the Vadavaur, was absent from the work, and attending a feast at Trivady at the time of the accident which resulted in the death of a cooly, and as it is reasonable to suppose that had he been attending to his duty he would have noticed the insecure state of the excavations, his further employment for one year will be prohibited.

(True Extract)

To the Superintending Engineer, Tanjore
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Judicial Department.
Exd S T Austin.
Spare Copies

Colonel, R E,
Secretary to Government

h 2 08. ... Tanjore Dy. Magistrate's Office 39
Tanjore 14th Feb. 1874

From The Deputy Magistrate of Tanjore
To The District Magistrate of Tanjore

Sir
With reference to your docket of
[] the 22nd ultimo No 411, in the
Government order of the 16th idem, I have the
honor to submit the information therein called
for by Government, regarding the accidental
death on the 2nd May last of a cooly named
Thangamuttu Villanarayan at the Vadavaur
scouring sluice works in the Tanjore Taluk.

The following parties have been
examined.

1. Rama Villanarayan Step brother
of the deceased Thangamuttu.
2. Vaidi Vinudalan
3. Gurunaden } Coolies
4. Annaditha Vinudalan Village Munsiff
of Kovilpathu
5. Thekk Hussin Head Constable in
charge of the Budalore station.

6. Paichanada Kottai Master or Muniagar
in charge of the work.

7. Kannusami Kottai a bricklayer.

3. In the 2d of May, the excavation
was completed by about 4 P.M. The brick-
layers Kannusami Kottai and Renga
Rajah at once commenced to work at the
west wing and were laying the first layer
of bricks there, without allowing the north and
southern sides of the excavation to settle
for a day or two. Langanuthu Villaswami
was handing over bricks and other materials
to the bricklayers who were at work. There
were the only 3 persons that were at work
at the foundation. The coolies inside, and
Curumadan and certain boy coolies were
engaged at some distance from the foundation
in removing bricks from the sea.

4. Paichanada Kottai the Master, who
was in charge of the work and whose pay was
15 Rs a month was unfortunately absent
on that day at Trivadi. Instead of being
present at the work particularly when the
excavation was completed and the masonry

work commenced. he went to Trivadi for
the Chaptasaram festival. He asserts
that he had under his charge the Tetras
plum work, as well as the Madavartham
work.
5. Renga Rajah one of the two bricklayers
who were at work, was also the head cooly,
and as such he had to take work from
the other coolies. Kannusami Kottai
and Renga Rajah were of course seated at
the north side of the excavation and doing
their work. Langanuthu was standing.
Kannusami Kottai states that at about
6 P.M. Langanuthu all of a sudden
ran to the southern side of the excavation
to ascend the slope and to effect his escape
having apparently apprehended the falling
of a mass of earth from the north side, but
in the meanwhile a large mass of earth
fell down and struck Langanuthu against
the southern side, and smashed his left
face, left cheek and left thigh. He
was completely buried in earth, his white
head cloth alone being visible. The top

of

of the heap of the earth which fell down as
described like a hard block. This hard
block struck Shaugamuttu against the
southern side, while he was just then to
ascend the slope and killed him, while
loose earth fell upon the bricklayers who
were seated near the spot and buried
them in their sitting posture up to their
waist. Ranga Raja was however, able
to extricate himself without the aid of any
person. Hannusami Kottaw was not
able to rise without the help of other
coolies. These two bricklayers received
very slight injuries, the portion of earth
that fell upon them having been loose.
Hannusami, however, states that
he was suffering from pain in the testicles
for 2 or 3 days.

The bricklayer Hannusami
Kottaw and the coolies Vaidi & Surunda
state that there was no heavy fall of rain
on the previous day, but that there was
only a slight shower, such as a few drops

which

which generally moistens the cloth. 1A 6

Under these circumstances, I am
unable to conclude that all reasonable pre-
cautions were taken to prevent the accident.
The native coolies are generally proverbial
for their recklessness and unable to foresee
accidents of this kind. Had the masonry
who understands the nature of the work
in question been present, and watched the
execution he would have, I think,
named the coolies at work of the accident.

8 The statements taken from the
parties named in para 2 are herewith
submitted.

I have seen
(per) A. Srinivasan
(per) Dy. Magr.

St. Memo.

St. Magesh Babu

1890.

99 /
Sangre Magistrate's Office
Sangre 30th January 1890

From,

H. S. Thomas Esq.
Magistrate of Sangre

To,

The Hon^{ble} D. F. Carmichael
As Chief Secretary
to Government,
Madras

Sir,

With reference to the Order
of Government dated 16th September
1890 & 17th 19, I have the honor to submit
Copy of a report from the Deputy Ma-
gistrate in charge of the Sangre Divi-
sion regarding the circumstances
attendant upon the death of
Shangamuttu Vellavaran, the Cooly
referred to.

I agree with the Deputy Ma-
gistrate in thinking that the Con-
duct of Messrs. Kanchanada
Cottan who was in charge of the
work on the Vadaras Sewing Machine

so reprehensible. I have ascertained from the District Engineer that he absented himself without leave to attend the Saptastanam festival at Sivadi on the day on which Shungamuttu was killed and that when he was put in charge of the work at the Vadavur Scurving since he had no other work to attend to.

3. Under these circumstances and considering that the steepness of the slope to the excavations for the foundations was the main cause of the accident, I am of opinion that the Ministry failed to take all reasonable precautions to prevent accident.

4. Pinchamada Cottai appears
to have been employed as a temporary
mistry upon job works and as
he is no longer in employ he cannot
be

he punished departmentally, and
as it is not he that is fairly answer-
able for the slope which it was that
was really at the bottom of the
accident I don't think he is
criminally punishable.

I have the honor to be
 Sir,

Yours most Obedt. Servt.

Mr. Thomas.

Magistrate

Capt. J. A. ...
 ...
 ... 1872 ...

Recd. 16th Feb 1875. *Wm. H. Hunt*

Received 1874. *Wm. H. Hunt*

of new
the Diet Supplicants
of Surge

of the 18th August 1874
at Court
March

Dated 30 January 1875
Read 17th February 1875

1875
Business
Report on the last
accident at the Madam
Katherine in the District

Forwarded to the Public Works Department
: with reference to the order in that
department No. 2553 - 29 Sept 1874

3 Feb 1875.

Wm. H. Hunt
At. Chief Secretary

to the Public Works Department.
3/2/75.

Forwarded -

1875

Enclosure in a letter

From
First Deputy
of Exchequer

Chief Clerk
Albion
London

Paris 30 Aug
1875

1890

Copy of Dy Mure's
letter

P W 7/7/75

L L L 20305/1875

P. W. 1875 Departs.
No. 767
A. 767

From
The Ag. Chief Secy
to Govt. P. D.

Dated 3rd { February 75
Recd of 4th {

Encl. L. O. No 599 2-3-75

Forwarding a
letter from the Dis-
trict Magistrate of
Tanjore submitting
the Dy. Magistrate's
Report on the late
accident at the Vada-
mavur sluice in that
District.

109-2-75

159
P. W. D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government,
Under date the 187 .

Read the following.—

Endorsement from the
Judicial Department

{ (H. E. dated 3rd Feby. 1875.)

599
It appears from the
report of the Magistrate
of Tanjore that the main-
try, Panchanada Gotta,
who was in immediate
charge of the scouring
sluice near the head of
the Vadaravaru was absent
from the work, and at-
tending a feast at
Trivady, at the time of the
accident which resulted
in the death of a Cooly;
and as it is reasonable
to suppose that had he
been

MM
1092

now attending to his duty
he would have noticed
the insecure state of the
excavations his further
employment for one year
will be prohibited.

by 6/2/75
mm

To The N. B. Langer ✓
a Controller of P. & A. ✓
a Judicial Dept. ✓

Diff. H. B. 75

767

Govt. of 1875, Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Supergr.
Tanjore

Dated

Recd

Encl /

G.O. 2nd Mar 1875, No

599

Hos. ^a 76-77.

Maistry Panchanda da

Cottam ~~Director~~

Prohibiting his further
employment for one
year, in connection with
the late accident at
the Vadavayur sluice
in the Tanjore dist.