

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1625 (w)	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	28-6-	1876.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
28th June 1876. No. 1,635*

No 588. Read the following letter from K. F. NORDMANN, Esq, Officiating District Engineer, Vizagapatam, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R E, Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Vizianagram, 15th June 1876, No. 532:—

I HAVE the honor to submit herewith, for your information, copy of a letter and enclosures, received from the Jeypore Range Officer, reporting the death, on the 11th ultimo, of a cooly-woman in a gravel pit near Mettavalsa on the road from Vizianagram to Parvatipur.

2. A translation of the Proceedings of the Court of Inquest on the dead body is enclosed. From these Proceedings it does appear that the sites of the pit were undermined. The Overseer and the Goomastah, however, do not state that such was the case. But neither was present at the time of the accident. The practice of undermining is common enough with coolies working by task, notwithstanding the warnings continually given on the subject.

3. It would seem that no one connected with the department can be blamed in this instance. But I have again called the attention of Range Officers and subordinates to G O, No. 802, dated 11th March 1873, and G O, No. 2,682, dated 17th September 1875, regarding the precautions to be enforced in digging pits for gravel, &c.

No 589. ORDER THEREON, 28th June 1876, No. 1,635.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 33.

RECORDED and communicated to the
Judicial Department.

(True Extract.)

Colonel,

Offy Under Secy to Govt., P.W.D

To the District Engineer, Vizagapatam.
" Judicial Department

Ed F R Bantleman
Spec Copies

No. of Crime
 Committed
 District of
 Sannah
 Office
 Date
 11-5-76
 Station
 of Police

Mottavala.

Remarks

The Head Constable
 at 1029 and Constable
 at 1074. Five both
 visited the spot and
 were present at the
 time of the Court of
 Enquiry held by the
 village headman
 and found that the
 dead body has no indi-
 cation of wounds. The
 Panchayat have expressed
 an opinion that the
 woman was killed,
 while digging ground,
 by

I have read
 (Signed) J. Cormac
 Jaypore Range Officer

(True Copy)

M. M. M. M.
 Off. District Engineer, Viragapatam

3.

hall

Jeyapore Range Office
Viranagaputram

From
The Officer in charge
of Jeyapore Range

The District Engineer
Viranagaputram

Dated 6th P. M. 11-5-76/76
(Recd. 11-5-76) June 18/76

N^o 47

Enclosures 5

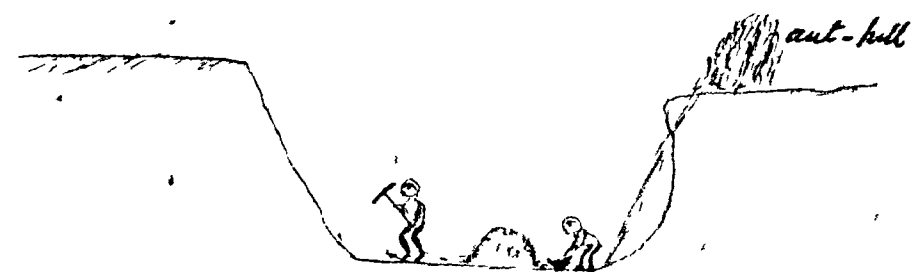
Sir,

I have the honor to
forward herewith copies
of the Proceedings of the
Court of Enquiry held
on account of the death
of a female Cooly by a
fall of earth at the side
of a gravel pit near
Mettavalea

11-5-76
District of
Sannah, Office
of Enquiry
Station
of Enquiry
Mettavalea

Remarks
The Head Constable
as 1029 and Constable
as 1030. Five Coolies
visited the spot and
were present at the
time of the Court of
Enquiry held by the
village Munsiff
and found that the
dead body was no indi-
cation of wound. The
Munsiff has expressed
an opinion that the
woman was killed,
while digging gravel,
by

Rough sketch showing
how the accident at Mettavalea
occurred.



(True Copy)
M. M. M.
Offy Dist Engr. Viranagaputram

From
Surrey Range
Elizabethan
The Officer in Charge

P. 41 4-1-2 76

Statement Showing Crimes reported to the Magistrate by the Station House Officer
of Bobbily Station, J. Division, on the 11th May 1876.

Date	Village	District of	Nature and brief description of Crime	By whom of the property reported	Property	Individuals	Arrested	Searched	Remarks

11-5-76 Mattwaka a girl named Vungata
of Bobbily Station, 15 years old, Captain
Station wrote down by the falling
in of side of a gravel pit
on her right side while
digging gravel; blood
framed through her mouth,
nose and womb.
(Village report)

Village Officer

The Head Constable,
at 1029 and Constable
at 1014 have both
visited the spot and
were present at the
time of the Court of
Inquest held by the
village authorities
and found that the
dead body has no indi-
cation of wound the
inquest have expressed
an opinion that the
woman was killed,
while digging gravel.

of the falling in of
the side of a gravel
pit on her right side
and blood flowing
freed through her
mouth, nose and womb

Q The sight of the
dead body was cruel
enough

A Found from our
inquiries of many others
that the falling in of
the side of the gravel
pit is the cause of
the death.

I have with me
the proceedings of
Court of Sessions
the Inquest held by
the College Surgeons
and the Hyfacts
received from the
family and the
husband of the girl.

(Signed) J. H. Chamberlain

(Signed) J. H. Chamberlain

(Signed) J. H. Chamberlain
J. H. Chamberlain
J. H. Chamberlain
J. H. Chamberlain

N^o 18

Salook Overseer's Office

Parvatipur 14th May 1876

To Mr. J. Carniac

Officer in charge of

Jaypore Range

Respected Sir,

I respectfully forward enclosed Arzees relating

to a fatal accident which occurred to a female contract

Cooly, whilst working in the gravel excavations near

Mettavalsa on the 11th Instant. I must state, that

I examined the quarries on the 5th and found none

of them undermined. Cogent instructions both

verbal and Official, have been at various times

issued to Goomastas in immediate charge of all

gravel quarries and through them the head

coolies and others.

Goomaraswamy's report as follows:-

Received a letter from Bobbili Goomasta A Seta

ramaswamy at 12 noon 11th Instant stating that

whilst the Cooly Contractors were digging gravel

at the Mettavalsa excavations at about 11 O'clock

in the day, a girl of about 15 years of age met

her death under the following circumstances:-

"Whilst the girl was lifting her basket of kunker,

an ant hill gave way and falling struck the girl,

from the effects of which she is said to have died."

Starting at 3 P.M. on receipt of letter to scene of acci-

dent, I saw the body of the deceased in a Mangie

Cope

9/1/76 4-4 1/2 8

Cope near Ettavala, but could see no sign of a
blow. Before my arrival a report had already
been sent to Civil Sub Magistrate by the Ettavala
village authorities. I send a copy for your infor-
mation. I inspected the quarry on the morning of
the 9th when inspecting the road repair work from
Chambhadiapur to Salanagram, and there was
nothing that I observed that would tend towards
danger. The Coolies anxious to remove an ant
hill situated on the edge of the quarry soaked it
with water, from which cause it fell down and
killed the girl at the time she was stooping to lift
the bunker to her head.

The accompanying sketch will better serve
to show as to how the accident is said to have
occurred, and looks from the sketch somewhat possible,
however it is only the words of the girl's relatives
who were with her at the time. The Goomasti
states that he was at the time of the occurrence
at the quarries near Antipetta. It is not unknown
that the Coolies pay not the slightest regard to
orders, however stringent. I cannot understand
under what circumstances the contractors were
anxious to remove the ant hill, unless it be the fact
-ledge that the bunker underneath was much softer
and easily excavated.

I have &c
(Signed) George Bennett
Saloon Overseer P.W.D.

(True Copy)

W. L. M. M. M.

Off. District Engineer, Vizagapatnam

From

See Muniff and Merasidas of
Mettavall



The Station House Officer of Bobbily

Some gravel contractors, belonging to Meltar, named Sikha, Chumaya Paluda Chumayya, Sasada Chumayya, Mathereddy Atchavadu, informed us that, while they were digging gravel (together with Pallikoradu Appi Vungatta Catchi Chinnamulla Anki, Koradu Papi Vungatta Seethi), in a bund situated west of the village for road work at 11 a.m. this morning, the side of the gravel pit came down by the side of a woman by name Vungatta Seethi; that she was then alive and that while taking her home, after giving her water to drink, her life has expired near the garden of Chelikanivani. Thereupon we went to the spot and enquired into the case. We do not think that she fell under the side of the pit that gave way; but on examining the dead body lying in Chelikanivani garden which is about 400 yards distance from the spot, we found that the woman died by a shock caused from the falling in of the side of the gravel pit by her side. The right side of the dead body was found

P. W. H. H. H. 3

found to be crushed and blood was passing
through her nose, mouth and womb. We found
no other wounds on her.

(Signed) Savula Sestani chidu
(Sd) Prathapa Rao Chundrian

Acrasidat

11th May 1876.

P. 9. 44-2-11/76

(True Copy)

M. M. M. M.

Off. District Engineer
Vizagapatam

Translation

Proceedings of a Court of Enquest held
on the 12th May 1876. 7 A.M.

1. Chellarappu Appala Naidu of Chellarappuvala.
2. Golla Ramu Naidu of Sectarampuram
3. Gollara Venkannah
4. Alajuni Gurannah
5. Tumarada Paupiah of Gollady

These five forming the Panchayet. At the
request of the Head Constable of Kobbily Station
and the Village Munsiff, we examined the
dead body of a woman named Voongatla Seta,
inhabitant of Mettavalea, about 15 years old,
of Garzola Campos Caste, lying under a mangoe
tree in the garden of Chellikamparao, and we
found no indications of wounds by force. The
body appears to have been crushed from the
shoulder to the hip on the right side, and blood
was passing through mouth, nose and womb.
The cause of this is that the side of the gravel pit,
in which gravel is being dug on contract for road
work, having been undermined, gave way, in
consequence of which the woman met her
death. We see no other cause for the death of
the woman.

(Marked) Chellarappu Appala Naidu marked

(Marked) Gorla Ramchandra
 (D) Godarapu Venkanniah
 (D) Alapuri Gurammiah
 (D) Sumarada Papiah
 (Signed) Purvula Sektum Naidu
 (D) Prathapa Rao Chandriah & Mirasidar
 (D) Arji Krestnayya, 1st class Constable
 (D) U. Sumrasiah 4th class Head Constable.

P. 4. 14 2/76

(True Copy)

M. Nordmann
 Offg. District Engineer, Vizagapatam

N^o 532

District Engineer's Office
 Camp Vizianagram 15th June 1876

From

H. F. Nordmann Esq.
 Offg. District Engineer

Vizagapatam

1. Copy of letter dated 6th June from the Jeypore Range Officer.

1. Copy of letter dated 18th & 14th June from the owner of the Range Officer.

1. Translation of the statement of crimes reported to the Magistrate by the Station House Officer.

1. Translation of the report of both the Village Munsiff & the Mirasidar of Mettavalu to the Station House Officer.

1. Translation of the Proceedings of the Court of Enquest.

1. Sketch

Major General G. W. Walker R.D.
 Secretary to Government P.W.D.
 Madras.

I have the honor to submit herewith for your information, copy of a letter and enclosures received from the Jeypore Range Officer, reporting the death, on the 11th ultimo, of a Cooly woman, in a gravel pit near Mettavalu on the road from Vizianagram to Parvatipur.

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undermining is common enough with Coolies
working by task, notwithstanding the warnings
continually given on the subject.

3. It would seem that no one connected
with the Department, can be blamed in this
instance. But I have again called the
attention of Range Officers and Subordinates
to G.O. N^o 802 dated 14th March 1873 and
G.O. N^o 2682 dated 17th September 1875, regard-
ing the precautions to be enforced in digging
pits for gravel &c.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obdt. Servant

W. M. M. M.

Off. District Engineer

Vindhyapattinam

5-142A

Death of a Coby
Reporting the _____ by the
falling in of the side of a
gravel pit.

159

Recd 15th June 1873.

The Honorable Government
Colon Charles Eyre Esq.
e. Leicester.

No. 1635 of 28th June 1877
Recorded, and Com.
-municated to the
-cial Department.

10.555/80

Cin-26-676 Cin-28-676
 Dep 60-22-676

S. Raja Jayapalan ✓
Indr. Seki ✓

2-10-17/21

5814-3-73 No 802
- 17-9-75-2682

4424 18
25
VILL. OF HENRI
PUBLIC WORKS

No D. L. Vazapetane

Death of a Cook —
Reporting the — by the
falling in of the side of a
gravel pit.

ci. 5821

28 June 1875

585-2189

Fatal accident to a
Cook - Vazapetane
28. Letter from the
Superior reporting a
work - 6 + emed to the
dept

Handwritten signature
15-7-76

No 588/59

ci. 26. 6.76 ci. 28. 6.76
Rep 20-22-6-76

20/11/76