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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 203	(W)	Press
		Mis.
Dated 22.6		1877.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

22nd June 1877, No. 283 W.

General.
Establishment.

Read the following paper:—

No. 204. Petition from S. VEFRARAGAVOOLLOO NAIDOO, dated 25th
May 1877.

No. 205. ORDER THEREON, 22nd June 1877, No. 283 W.

THE petitioner's memorial will be forwarded to the Secretary of State for India.

(True Extract)

Colonel, R E,
Secretary to Government, P W D.

To the Petitioner

Exd E C Shunkar.
Spare Copies

To

COLONEL G. W. WALKER, R. E.

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Public Works Department,

Fort Saint George,

MADRAS

*The Humble Petition of S VEERARAGAVOOLOO NAIDOO,
Late Taluq Overseer, P. W. D. Mount Range,
Chinglepet District*

HUMBLY SHEWS,

1 That Petitioner served Government for nearly 18 years in the several capacities of first Maistry, and subsequently Sub-Overseer in the old Maistry Department, then as Draughtsman in the former District Engineer's Office and in the Range Offices at North Arcot, afterwards, Local Overseer in Madras Water Works Range, and lastly Talook Overseer, in the Mount Range, Chinglepet District

2 That while employed at the Mount Range, Petitioner was unjustly dismissed, while undergoing Medical treatment by Colonel F J Moberly, R E District Engineer of Chinglepet, and he handed over charge, according to a Memo No 1362 dated 17th November 1873 from W S Harrington Esq Executive Engineer, Mount Range, by sending his scientific Instruments, Records, Books &c by the Taluq Writer, Venayaga Moodelly, accompanied with the Petitioner's letter No 2 dated 21st November 1873 the Petitioner being ill

3 That the grounds of his dismissal as stated in a memo from the Executive Engineer, Mr. W S Harrington, dated 15th October 1873, No 1055; copy appended, are

1st That "during the last year, (Petitioner) rarely examined the Irrigation works which were under his charge, in addition to the New Barracks, his arrangements on which latter work were so bad that much money was unexpended The work people were not paid regularly, and consequently became dissatisfied, and his accounts were so badly kept that it took him nearly three months to give over charge to Serjeant Armitage"

2nd That "when he was relieved of the Barracks and had only the Irrigation works, he neglected them shamefully, his visits were made hurriedly, and he returned every day to his Head Quarters"

3rd That "not a single measurement entered in the Paddy Tank Estimate was correct when examined by me (the District Engineer) on the 18th July, and that he (Petitioner) has not yet sent in the revised estimate which I (the District Engineer) then desired him to furnish"

4th That "the Estimate for the Veeraragaven tank at Terooneermalai was returned to (the Executive Engineer) a few days ago, with the estimate prepared in my (the District Engineer's) Office from levels taken by Serjeant Armitage, the former being double the latter in amount No item in the Estimate prepared by Veeraragavooloo is correct"

5th That "the Tank bank is in very fair order, and any repair to it might well have been deferred. His (the Petitioner's) assertion that it was breached induced me (the District Engineer) to sanction the Estimate"

6th That "his (Petitioner's) illness would have been good excuse for delay had he reported it, and allowed us (District and Executive Engineers) opportunity of replacing or assisting him. As it is, he has caused much inconvenience, and probably loss to Government and the Range by the non-submission of Estimate &c"

7th That "Petitioner's illness cannot however be any excuse for false statements of entries, always in excess of the truth, in estimates, and therefore, I (District Engineer) hold it to be my duty to dispense with his services"

4 That, as regards the first charge, Petitioner begs to state that he joined the Mount Range in March 1872, while Mr Sub-Engineer Walsh was in Executive charge, and the New Artillery Barracks work then under construction, estimated to cost Rs 2,37,885, was formally handed over to Petitioner, who understood, and subsequent events proved that his assumption was correct, that, as the work in question was a very large and important one, requiring the whole attention of one man to efficiently supervise in execution, it was to be his sole charge to which he was to devote his whole time and attention. No mention whatever was made that Petitioner should have to look after the Irrigation works in the Taluq. In April 1872, Mr Executive Engineer Goodchap was placed in charge of the Mount Range. This Officer's instructions to Petitioner clearly showed that Petitioner was not expected to look after the Irrigation works, for, after examining the progress made by Petitioner on the New Barracks, and being satisfied therewith, that Officer, with reluctance, extended Petitioner's charge to the North and South Barracks, for which an estimate amounting to about Rs 7,724 had been sanctioned for constructing Bengal Terraced Verandahs saying that Petitioner's new charge was in close proximity to the New Barracks, and that the Verandah work would be executed with the same success and economy as attended Petitioner's efforts in the New Barracks. In May following Major Hunter, R.E., assumed charge, and Petitioner was then, for the first time, verbally directed to superintend the execution of repairs to a few Irrigation works which required repair, but Petitioner was to be present at Major Hunter's Office every day.

* No 317
Overseer Veeraragavooloo Nandoo is requested to attend the Range Office at Mount every day at 11 o'clock A.M. except Sunday.

(Signed) J N HUNTER, CAPT R.E.
Executive Engineer,
Mount Range.

5 From this time forth, Petitioner took to looking after those Irrigation works to which his attention was directed by his superiors, besides the Barracks' works. Petitioner submits that, as a subordinate placed in charge of a very large work, he could not take upon himself to leave the work unless ordered by his superior. All the instructions he received were to look after particular works which were specifically named, and Petitioner attended to orders to the best of his ability. Petitioner begs further to submit that all his late Travelling allowance bills, which are accompanied by Inspection reports showing the places visited, were passed by Col Moberly, District Engineer, without any remarks as to Petitioner's neglect of the Irrigation works, and that that Officer never at any time, found fault with Petitioner for dereliction of duty in this respect. The charge was for the first time, urged against Petitioner in the dismissal order, and never before.

6 That, with regard to much money having been left unexpended on the New Barracks, Petitioner begs to explain that it is exclusively ascribable to the remissness of the Contractor supplying the materials—

7 This will become evident from the report of Major Hunter towards the end of the last 12th February, 1873

To
The Executive Engineer,
Mount Range

Sir,
Maistry Condasawmy reports that there are no bricks at the Barracks for tomorrow's immediate use, and that supplier Somoo Chetty did not at all send in Supplies, although peremptory and repeated warnings given him that he would lose his contract by this irregular way of supplying and utter mismanagement. I have, under your oral instructions, given orders to a new supplier Rajagopal Naicker to supply at least 40 Cart loads to push on tomorrow's work, but he promised to send in 20 Cart loads of bricks at once, and he said that he has a lac of bricks at his disposal. I cannot say anything about it till I go and inspect the bricks with my own eyes, and so I request your permission to buy as many bricks as I can purchase from outsiders, in order to push on the work as quick as possible without delay, and that there be no complaint from the workmen that they are in want of bricks &c. We must do the best way we can, and not to delay the work on account of the greedy suppliers, who will not attend to any strict warnings. I am afraid that outsiders may demand high rates including the cartage on account of the various distances, from which they should bring in bricks, let Somoo Chetty suffer the loss and it cannot be helped. I have long endured and my patience is exhausted, and so I wish to have your immediate orders on the subject.

I beg to remain,
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant,
(Signed) S VEERARAGAVOOLOO, Overseer

No 70

To
The Executive Engineer,
Mount Range

Sir,
I beg to bring to your kind notice that Teak wood Supplier, Kistnappa Chetty, has not supplied the Teak wood Rafters &c, to the Verandah of the North and South Barracks, and those required for the New Artillery Barracks, although he has been directed to supply the articles without delay by your honor, no notice has been taken up to this date, and the works are all much delayed for want of the same by the supplier. I therefore, beg to request your honor will strictly warn him to supply the requisite articles without loss of time.

I beg to remain
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant,
(Signed) S VEERARAGAVOOLOO, Overseer

No 15

To
The Executive Engineer,
Mount Range

Sir,
I beg to forward the accompanying indent for the articles required necessarily for the rection of the work at New Barracks, which has been detained for want of the same, and as the supplier did not supply the required articles as per the indent hitherto sent I request you will be good enough to direct the supplier to furnish the said articles without loss of time.

I beg to remain,
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant,
(Signed) S VEERARAGAVOOLOO, Overseer.

8 Please also see Mr Goodchap's Memo * No 216 dated 13th May 1872, to the Contractor Somoo Chetty, in which he pointedly alludes to his delay in supplying materials, and to the instructions given by himself to the Contractor on the subject. Besides, such was Somoo Chetty's tardiness that Major Hunter, the Executive Engineer, warned him not less than about half a dozen times, that if he did not fulfil his engagements according to his contract, he would report his conduct to the Superintending Engineer, and deprive him of the

No 216

Memo

13th May, 1872

Supplier Somoo Chetty is informed that if he does not supply the materials indented for the North and South Barracks sharp, he will be fined and reported to the Superintending Engineer. The Granite stone flooring to the New Barracks is disgracefully delayed, and also the supplies indented for the same work. It is anticipated that a large amount will be shortly actioned for the New Barracks, and if Somoo Chetty continues to pay so little attention to the instructions given him by the Overseer in charge regarding the work, other arrangements will have to be made for the supply of the materials &c.

(Signed) W. A. GOODCHAP, Executive Engineer
In Charge of Mount Range

contract. In the same manner, Petitioner had to bring the conduct of Somoo Chetty to the notice of the Executive Engineer in letter also of the 1st October 1872, *No 69, by all which it will be abundantly evident that the delay in the supply of these materials was never in the least attributable to Petitioner. In fact, Petitioner was so extremely anxious for the progress of the work and to show a saving in the Public Expenditure that, finding that the labourers on the spot at St Thomas' Mount (engaged on the New Barracks work) had effected a vicious and illegal combination among themselves to defeat Petitioner's endeavours, and thus delay Government work, Petitioner immediately sent off for others from Arcot, Chittoor and other adjacent stations, paid their Trainage down and back again, and other incidental charges, besides, such as for their food, lodging &c, all out of his own private funds, and thus secured about 20 first Class Bricklayers from there. Now, the hire of such artizans at St Thomas' Mount is 8 As each per day, whereas Petitioner was able to get these out of Arcot &c, for 6 As only.

* No, 69

To
The Executive Engineer,
Mount Range.

1st October, 1872

Sir,
I beg to bring to your kind notice that great delay has occurred every day by supplier Somoo Chetty in supplying materials &c, to the New Barracks works, this man was called upon by me in several times to supply the requisite materials without delay, and the other day your honor has also directed him to supply the materials and the works all the work of the Barracks &c, have been delayed for want of the materials and the works are now going on very slow manner for want of Chumam Bricks and the other articles &c. I therefore beg to request your honor will strictly order the supplier Somoo Chetty, to supply a day not less than 100 carts of Bricks and ten carts of Chumam from tomorrow.

I beg to remain

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant,

(Signed) S VEERARAGAVOOLOO Overseer

selves to defeat Petitioner's endeavours, and thus delay Government work, Petitioner immediately sent off for others from Arcot, Chittoor and other adjacent stations, paid their Trainage down and back again, and other incidental charges, besides, such as for their food, lodging &c, all out of his own private funds, and thus secured about 20 first Class Bricklayers from there. Now, the hire

of such artizans at St Thomas' Mount is 8 As each per day, whereas Petitioner was able to get these out of Arcot &c, for 6 As only.

9 This measure had the happiest effect in destroying the combination of the Madras men, because, as they saw that their conspiracy was completely defeated, they soon came to their right senses, and quietly submitted to continue their work. Having thus succeeded in his desired object and considering within himself that the new-comers were strangers here, who might ~~be a source of trouble~~ for their own homes and families, and that it was, therefore, advisable to retain the old hands only, who were inhabitants of the place, Petitioner paid the return Trainage and other expenses of the new comers, and despatched them home, after detaining them here for about four or five days, because Petitioner did not think that he had any need to engage both sets of work people.

* No 161

To
The Executive Engineer,
Mount Range.

16th April, 1873.

Sir,
With reference to Major Hunter's memo No 1862 dated 31st March 1873, directing me to hand over charge of the construction of the New Artillery Barracks to Overseer Mr Armitage, I beg leave to state that the reason of the work being in slow progress and the allotment not being spent within the end of the official year was, that Major Hunter made agreement with Somoo Chetty to supply building materials who utterly failed to send in the supplies when required, and I had to complain about his conduct more than dozen times which has not been taken notice of by Major Hunter, and when Major Hunter gave me the order at the last hour to buy materials from outsiders, they could not get materials or carts, for Somoo Chetty has been advancing the brick and lime kiln owners as well as the cartmen in the suburbs, binding them by written contracts not to supply any thing to others but himself.

Major Hunter has entered into contract with one Kistappa Chetty for the supply of Teak Timber who also failed to send in the supplies whenever they were needed, and I have also reported to him but no notice was taken. Major Hunter on seeing that Kistappa Chetty failed gave a large sum of 16 000 Rs. Teak wood contract to one Kistnasamy Pillay of Tanjore, thinking that he would be able to supply the wood that was required for the works as he professed himself to be one of the approved contractors by the Telegraph Department, Commissariat &c, but he also failed to supply even a few 100 of Rs. Teak although indents were sent to him. If Major Hunter had fined the above suppliers then and there for each failure in the sum of 50 or 100 Rs they would have supplied the same when required, but he was rather lenient with them, and they took advantage of his kindness.

10 It should here be remarked that it was the standing custom at the Mount Range to advertise, in the Fort Saint George Gazette for suppliers, who on being accepted give in certain schedules of rates for materials according to which the Executive Engineer, after obtaining sanction of the Superintending Engineer, orders materials to be supplied. In keeping with this arrangement which cannot be

How can Major Hunter expect me to spend the allotment with such difficulties as above set forth when he entered into contract with such men as Somo Chetty, Kistappa Chetty and Kistnasamy Pillay, and moreover there had been heavy and incessant rains during last November, and February this year which damages the brick kiln and the carts were impossible for a whole month after the rains, and the Executive Officers, both in this as well as in other Districts, had to surrender large sum of money allotted for building and irrigation purposes not being able to spend the allotments on account of unusual rain which impeded the speedy progress of the works, but the Barrack work has been impeded partly by the heavy rain and partly by the utter failure of the above suppliers, or else I would have finished the whole of the allotment and applied for more funds.

If the Barracks is to be taken away from me all of a sudden, I shall not be responsible for any deficit in the sub heads during the time I was in charge, because I may exert myself and show a good deal of saving if I remain in charge till the completion of the work, and make proper arrangements to make good the deficit. I have been entrusted with 3 works since my having joined the Mount Range. In these 3, I have shown a saving of Rupees 15 out of 100 sanctioned for the subsidiary jail at Poonamallee, and 750 Rs out of the sanctioned amount for the North and South Barracks, and there may be a saving in the New Barracks work, but I cannot exactly say how much, till the measurements are completed and accounts closed.

How can an Overseer, who looks after the work at Mount, Poonamallee, Pallaveram, Guindy Park, Sydapet and Holme's Garden safely supervise the important Barrack work without inconveniencing the Public Service, as the Barrack work requires the services of one Overseer solely for it, so that the subordinates might not swindle.

Under the above circumstances, I request that you will be good enough to forward my explanation to the District Engineer for his orders, and if he is of opinion that the fault lies on me for not expediting the Barrack work, and not on the supplier, or the Executive Officer for not taking speedy and stringent measures in fining the suppliers for their failure, and if they repeatedly neglected to obey his orders, to report them at once to the Higher authorities to have the agreements cancelled. I have taken much pains in going about the brick kilns, and have encouraged the outsiders to supply bricks and teak wood that were required for the immediate use of the Barrack work. Had I not exerted so much, not half the work would have been done to the Barracks.

Colonel Wilkieson ordered me to take charge of the Barracks, seeing the large excess over the sanctioned estimated amount spent on the Barracks by 3 successive Overseers who were in charge of the Barracks, and cautioned me to be more careful with this important work, and not to be duped by the above suppliers, and I beg to state that I have followed Colonel Wilkieson's words as a paternal advice up to this moment; but people are trying their best to get it from my hands in order that they may rob the Public funds by using bad materials such as half bricks and quarter bricks, and patching the work which cannot be done during my time, and I will not allow a single farthing to be robbed by any one as long as I am in charge of the work.

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant,

(Signed) S VEERARAGAVOOLOO, Overseer

* No 161, dated 16th April 1873, copy of which he begs to annex in the margin

11 "The work people were not paid regularly, and consequently became dissatisfied" Petitioner begs to explain, that his practice was to close accounts always from the 1st to 15th of each month, and this was done within the 19th, or the 20th the latest. The accounts from the 16th to the end of the month were completed within the 5th of the next month. These facts will be proved by a reference to the accounts themselves, and therefore require no arguments from Petitioner to that end. That the work-men were not regularly paid is no fault of the Petitioner, who in accordance with long existing custom closed his station books, as already explained, twice in a month with a view of paying the work people. The operation of closing never at the

* Circular Memo No 1125

14th November, 1871

Overseers are warned that they must on no account delay the submission of their Station Books beyond the time specified namely, on the 5th and 20th of the month.

(Signed) J F DORWARD, Lieut. R. E.

disturbed, the Overseer has no choice to procure materials himself, but must wait till the contractor furnishes them. The short-comings of the contractor our Petitioner pointedly urged on the notice of the Executive Engineer, who thereupon ordered, but unfortunately at the very last hour or at the conclusion of the year, to purchase the requisite materials. On this the outside contractors taking the alarm, spread out their money freely to counteract Petitioner's honest endeavours, by not only purchasing up all the materials from wherever they were procurable, but also by monopolizing the carts so as to thwart Petitioner's efforts. Notwithstanding all these most formidable obstructions in Petitioner's way, your Petitioner, by his unremitting exertions, procured materials from outsiders for which he had to travel all around the Madras outskirts, and draw his supplies from other sources, which will be seen on reference to his letter to the Executive Engineer, Mount Range.

outside occupied the Petitioner more than 2 days, though 5 days time was allowed for the purpose, vide order in the Margin *

* No 34

To
The Executive Engineer,
Mount Range

27th May, 1872

Sir,

I beg most respectfully to state that I have closed the accounts up to the 10th instant, and have forwarded the same to the Range Office. The coolies are becoming very troublesome about their wages, for which I ask you, with my most humble thanks, that you will send in their wages in time, so as to prevent them abandoning their posts as they are just now doing from not being paid regular

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant

(Signed) S VEERARAGAVOOLOO, Overseer,

* No 48

To
The Executive Engineer,
Mount Range

8th July, 1872

Sir,

I beg most respectfully to state that I have closed the accounts from 1st to 15th June 1872, except the quantity, and I have given the same to the Range Office Head Accountant. The coolies are troubling me very much about their wages, for which I request to pass their wages, and to stop away the contractor's bill until the New Barracks allotment is sanctioned, if the New Barracks works be put a stop to, there will be great difficulty to get Bricklayers &c., for the above work —

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant,

(Signed) S VEERARAGAVOOLOO, Overseer

tioner begs to append copies of letters addressed by him to the Executive Engineer, complaining of the delay in the Range Office, which prevented the work people from being paid regularly

12 That with regard to the state of the accounts which, it is alleged, were so badly kept that it took the Petitioner nearly three months to give over charge to Mr Sergeant Armitage. Petitioner begs leave to explain that the only accounts kept by him in connection with the New Barracks were daily reports, and Station Books &c., which showed the quantity of materials received from the supplier, and the number of work-people engaged on the work, and which are closed every day. The District Engineer evidently does not refer to these accounts, and as no other accounts were mentioned by Petitioner, the charge that they were badly kept falls to the ground. What Mr Armitage wanted from Petitioner was detailed measurements of each class of work done on the New Barracks up to the date of handing over charge to him. The details required were of course not available, as no accounts showing these particulars were mentioned by Petitioner, who had therefore to take measurements from the work to make up the Statement required. It may be thought that the non-existence of such accounts was the fault of the Petitioner, but he begs to explain, that he merely continued the practice which he found prevailing when he took charge of the work, and he was never at any time informed, by any of the several Officers who were over him, that the practice was faulty

13 It took the Petitioner about 1½ months to finish the statement* required by Mr Armitage:

26th May, 1873

* No 21

To
The Executive Engineer,
Mount Range

Sir,

In obedience to your verbal instructions, I beg most respectfully to report that the Comparative Statement and other papers connected with the New Barracks are all completed. I have handed over them to the Overseer, Mr Armitage, who is examining them for his satisfaction. As soon as they are finished the result will be reported

I further beg to forward the Original Comparative Statement for your kind perusal

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant,

(Signed) S VEERARAGAVOOLOO, Overseer

A reference to the Petitioner's Station Book now in the Range Office will prove this statement. The Station Books after being closed are forwarded to the Range Office, where they are checked by the Accountants and countersigned by the Executive Engineer, who thereupon issues a cheque for the amount due to the work people in favour of the Overseer, who then cashes it and pays the work people. The delay referred to by Lt Col Moberly took place in the Range Office, where it is usual to detain the Station Books till all the Overseers send in their accounts, then check altogether, and issue the cheques. Petitioner, complaining of

In regard to this, it must be borne in mind, that this was not the only work which engrossed Petitioner's time and attention on this occasion. Petitioner had simultaneously to attend to the Irrigation Work Inspection, as well as to other current duties which could not be postponed, the details of

* No C

Overseer Veeraragavooloo Naidoo is directed to attend Mr Overseer Armitage's Office at Mount to give certain information regarding the comparative statement of the new Artillery Barracks at Mount prepared by him

(Signed) F J MOBERLY, R R

For Executive Engineer,
Mount Range

Gandy,
Mount Range Office }
21st June, 1873

* No 126

To
Veeraragavooloo Naidoo,
Taluk Overseer

20th June, 1873

Sir,

Your personal attention is requested to explain matters relating to the statement of the New Barracks, accompanying by your writer as soon as possible

I have the honor, &c,

(Signed) J ARMITAGE,

Contonment Overseer

Mount,
28th June, 1873 }

remaining time was occupied by Mr Armitage in checking and verifying Petitioner's accounts

14 That, with regard to Petitioner having shamefully neglected the Irrigation works after he was relieved of the New Barracks works, Petitioner respectfully begs to point out that he was finally relieved of the Barracks work only in July of this year, and that he took ill towards the end of September. Petitioner submits, whether the period embraced in the two dates specified is sufficient to allow of a just opinion being formed as to whether Petitioner's supervision was advantageous or not to the Irrigation works. Petitioner respectfully begs to assure your honor that he spared no pains in the proper execution of the repairs which had been sanctioned, and in preparing Estimates for such Tanks as stood in need of repairs. The charge, your honor's Petitioner submits, is very general. No particular instance of neglect is mentioned to enable Petitioner to submit explanation exonerating himself. While delivering charge of the Barrack works, Petitioner was of course compelled to be frequently at Head Quarters every day, inspecting the Irrigation works at intervals each day, but after finally delivering charge of the Barracks, Petitioner devoted his entire time and attention to the Irrigation works. Petitioner's Inspection reports for this period will show that he did not return to Head Quarters as frequently as stated

15 As for the correctness of the Paudy Tank estimates, Petitioner submits that, when a superior's mind is strongly prejudiced against his subordinates, every item of the latter's work—every phase of his most innocent conduct is coloured by the prejudice, and nothing that he does appears as it should to the Superior. Colonel Moberly was resolved to injure Petitioner in the eyes of Government, and hence the style of his language against Petitioner. If any other unbiased Officer had examined the very same work which Colonel Moberly alludes to, Petitioner firmly believes that he would have arrived at a very different conclusion from Colonel Moberly, whereas, with the latter's marked and vindictive bias against Petitioner, which is so plainly evident, it was not likely that any efforts on Petitioner's part would have satisfied him and conciliated his good will. As for not finishing the estimate of the Paudy Tank, that admits of easy explanation. The Executive Engineer's letter, *No 535 dated 19th July 1873 for revision was dispatched by him on the 21st and received by Petitioner on the 22nd July 1873. On the 23rd July, Petitioner received a memo *No 547 dated 23rd July 1873 from Col Moberly, the same Officer, to proceed to Eranavoor and submit a plan, and valuation estimate of a building known as Underwood's

* No 547

Memo

Letter from District Engineer No 1040 of 22nd Instant. Overseer Veeraragavooloo Naidoo is directed to furnish to this Office, as early as possible, a plan and valuation of the house in Eranavoor known as Underwood's Bungalow, to the west of the road from Trivattoor to Ennoor, and belonging to one Kalyanasoondra Moodaliar of Madras

(Signed) F J MOBERLY, Col R R

For Executive Engineer

* No 555

Memo

29 h July, 1873

Overseer Veeraragavooloo Naidoo is directed to prepare as speedily as possible a survey of the Adyar from a point $\frac{1}{2}$ mile above the entry of the East coast canal to the Elphinstone bridge, showing the general direction of any sand bank which may be in the bed of the river, and its high bank carefully —

The plan should be ready with a week of the receipt of this order —

(Signed) F J MOBERLY, R. E.

For Executive Engineer

"Adyar from a point $\frac{1}{2}$ mile above the entry of the East Coast canal to the Elphinstone Bridge" This work was to be in considerable detail, for Col Moberly wanted Petitioner to show "the general direction of any sand bank which may be in the bed of the river, and its high bank carefully"

* No 603

Memo

9th August, 1873

Overseer Veeraragavooloo Naidoo is directed to expedite at once the submission of the survey plan called for in the Office memo, No 555, dated 30th July 1873 —

The time allowed in the above for the preparation and submission of the survey was one week —

(Signed) F J MOBERLY, R. E.

For Executive Engineer

betes "and Bleeding piles," from which he had suffered 2 years ago. From this time up to the 21st September last, he was at work, but on the 22nd he was laid up with illness, and was compelled to put himself under medical treatment, although he continued to persevere in attending to his duties, as far as he was capable of doing so, at home. Accordingly on the 20th August last

Plans

- 1 Side plan of Eranavoor Bungalow
- 1 Plans Sections and elevation of 2 Storied Main Building with details
- 1 do do do of 3 Storied centre do do do
- 1 do do do of Out houses do do do
- 1 Survey plan of the Adyar river with sections do do do
- 1 Valuation estimate with various details for Eranavoor Bungalows and out houses &c,

Total 6

neat detailed Survey plan of the Adyar river —

16 While Petitioner was thus engaged, and previous to being able to attend to the Paudy Tank work he became sick, as was reported with a Doctor's certificate, from a severe attack of Piles and the Diabetes

17 That as regards "Veeraragavanary Tank at Teerooneimalay," this point requires some consideration before deciding the question. This small Tank called a Tangel has two hills, one on its North and the other on the South side. Formerly, the surplus water passed out of the Tank by the south side, but during the last few years, a breach having occurred on the North side, the water commenced passing out thereby. By the last year's heavy rains, this breach became widened, and the result has been that much water ran to waste, so that the cultivators were exposed to loss of produce. At their special and reiterated solicitations, and in the exercise of his own experience, Petitioner considered that if this North breach were properly remedied, the water supply could be largely reserved and utilized, and therefore, with this view alone, he directed the breach to be filled, and the bank efficiently strengthened. From the tone of the District Engineer's language, "his (Petitioner's) assertion that it was breached induced me to sanction the estimate," it might be inferred that no breach had occurred. But the fact is otherwise. There was an old breach there caused some years ago. This was much enlarged by the heavy rains of last year, and Petitioner's

Bungalow Petitioner immediately proceeded there which is 14 miles away, and while actively engaged in that work, he received another memo dated 29th July 1873, No 555, calling upon him to prepare "as speedily as possible a survey of the

So urgent was this work that another call came in on the 9th August, *No 603 to expedite it at once. As he was busily engaged in all this work, and while labouring at it night and day, because everything was required either "as speedily as possible" or "at once," Petitioner became sick with a renewed attack of the Dia-

Petitioner completed and delivered up the 5 Plans and one Valuation Estimate, very neatly and carefully prepared, and embodying all the information which was required, and also a very

attention was directed to it by the Ryots of that Village. With the view to strengthen the bank as much as possible, and securing the water against being wasted, and further, urged by the representations of the above villa-

Abstract for Veeraragavanary Tank-Earth-work Rupees		98	14	6
Turfing	"	21	14	8
Sundries	"	0	2	10
Total of Estimate	"	121	0	0

gers, Petitioner regarded an outlay of Rs 121 as but trifling, considering that ample means of irri-

gation would thereby be secured for some 45 Cawnies of valuable wet land, the assessment on which was Rs 144 per annum. Besides, had the proposed work been done, it would require no further outlay for at least 25 years and even more, and whatever augmentations of Revenue accrued to Government would be a clear and undoubted gain. These were the strong reasons which induced Petitioner to estimate for the work, which the District Engineer now thinks it proper to pass over as one which might well have been deferred. Petitioner takes the liberty to explain that this repair was not estimated for by him on emergency, or absolutely requisite. In examining the irrigation works in the village, on the verbal orders of the Executive Engineer, which were given on the report of the villagers that their Tanks had breached, this work was one which came under inspection among 3 others, and the estimate was a matter of course.

18 Having explained, Petitioner hopes satisfactorily, every item of objection which the District Engineer has been pleased to bring against him, Petitioner begs now, in conclusion, to revert to the manner in which his misfortune arose. Petitioner had served in the Mount Range 14 years without the slightest question or doubt from his superiors as to his integrity or ability, until the return of Mr Harrington, the Executive Engineer, to the Range, who conceived an animus against Petitioner which he is unable to account for, nothing however took place up to the 22nd September last, when the fire that had been silently smouldering for a year and upwards, broke out suddenly, and burst upon its defenceless victim, and that too at a time when, tortured and weakened by the merciless attack of a most painful and debilitating disease, Petitioner's mind was in an unsettled state. For two years past, Petitioner was suffering from the Diabetes, but for the last 8 months, it has been gradually increasing in violence. On the 21st September, Petitioner got a very severe attack, having passed urine on that day about 20 times from sunrise to sunset. In addition to this, Petitioner was subject to the bleeding piles, which weakens his constitution very considerably.

19 On the 22nd September last, therefore, Petitioner's constitution not being able to hold out any longer, he had to succumb and took to his bed on account of both the Diabetes and Bleeding piles accompanied by Fever, all three working on his declining body simultaneously.

20 On the same date, the kind Doctor Kearney, after a patient and thorough investigation of Petitioner's case, pitied him deeply, and was pleased to grant an admission Medical Certificate dated *22nd Sept 1873, which

Saint Thomas' Mount, 22nd September 1873

* This is to certify that Taluq Overseer, S Veeraragavooloo, of the Department Public Works is incapacitated by indisposition for the performance of his duty

To

(Signed) D KEARNEY,

Surgeon Major
In Medical Charge of detailsThe Executive Engineer,
Mount Range,

* No 53

To W S Harrington Esquire,
Executive Engineer,
Mount Range

23rd September, 1873

Sir,

In submitting the accompanying Medical Certificate of Surgeon Major Doctor D Kearney M D respecting my present ill health, I beg to inform your honor that as I am suffering from Diabetes, Piles, and Rheumatism which weaken me considerably, I respectfully beg your honor will be pleased to grant me three months' sick leave from the date of certificate, and for which act of kindness I shall ever feel thankful

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant,

(Signed) S VEERARAGAVOOLOO, Overseer.

Petitioner transmitted to Mr Harrington, the Range Officer, Mount Range, covering it with a letter from himself *No 58, dated 23rd September 1873, in which, Petitioner solicited leave for 3 months, with the view of putting himself under thorough Medical treatment, as the Doctor certified that he was labouring under "Incipient Bright disease," and he felt himself extremely weak and quite prostrated

21 Now began Petitioner's unmerited and unwonted troubles. The Executive Engineer, Mr Harrington, wrote a memo * No. 857 dated 30th September 1873, in which occurs the following extraordinary decision "The District Engineer, Mr Harrington, has stated that he will be obliged to dismiss him (Overseer Veeraragavooloo Naidoo) from the Department unless he resigned his appointment by return of post. The Overseer is utterly useless if not dishonest, and cannot be allowed to remain as a Government servant."

* No 857

Memo

30th September, 1873

With reference to his letter No 58 dated 23rd Instant, Overseer Veeraragavooloo Naidoo is informed that the District Engineer has stated that he will be obliged to dismiss him from the Department unless he resigns his appointment by return of post. The Overseer is utterly useless if not dishonest, and cannot be allowed to remain as a Government servant. He will be relieved as soon as possible by a better man, to whom he will hand over his accounts and charge of the Irrigation works, taking care that he does so correctly.

(Signed) W S HARRINGTON,

Executive Engineer
Mount Range.

To

S Veeraragavooloo,
Taluk Overseer

Now, Honoured Sir, Petitioner begs leave to submit, with the utmost humility and deference to your exalted position of power and patronage, that this is a harsh, severe and hasty measure! Petitioner has, he submits, done *nothing whatever wrong* to deserve so severe a treatment, after serving Government in permanent employ for nearly 17 years. He never was dismissed, nor suspended from his post for a single hour during this protracted period, nor even fined, but on the present unfortunate occasion, he was called upon to *resign immediately*, without any definite charge being preferred against him, or even any specific complaint as to his wrong doing, for he is, he humbly submits, justified in believing that had any such existed it would have been laid against him as it should, and he in fairness called upon for his defence. This is the course which British Justice invariably adopts against every subject, even Murderers, Robbers, and the foulest Traitors and Conspirators against the State but Petitioner alone is peremptorily ordered to resign his hard-earned bread *all of a sudden*, and that "by return of Post," when he was laid up on a sick bed, and labouring under a species of mental delusion, which was brought on by a long standing illness alone, which was insidiously poisoning his blood! On the receipt of this missive, stunned by its astonishing contents, Petitioner waited upon Doctor Kearney and showed him Mr Harrington's memo * No 857 dated 30th September 1873. This kind-hearted Gentleman, who knew full well under what a complication of affections Petitioner was labouring, took up his pen at once and spontaneously, without the least solicitation on Petitioner's part, wrote to the Executive Engineer, Mount

* No 153

Saint Thomas' Mount 4th October 1873

From

Surgeon Major D Kearney M D
In Medical Charge Details,

To

The Executive Engineer Mount Range

Sir,

Overseer Veeraragavooloo has just shown me your memorandum, No 657, dated 30th September 1873. I reported him ill on the 22nd of last month, and he is still undergoing treatment.

His health is very much out of order, and he is suffering from Incipient Bright disease, and it would be a pity to press him to return to duty in his present state. He will require a change of climate, and it is my intention to grant him a Medical certificate in a few days.

(Signed) D KEARNEY,

Surgeon Major

In Medical Charge Details

* I, Daniel Kearney, Surgeon Major in Medical Charge of Details at Saint Thomas' Mount, do hereby certify, on honor, that Overseer Veeraragavooloo Naidoo of the Public Works Department, Mount Range, is in a bad state of health, and I sincerely declare that, according to the best of my judgment, a change of air is essentially necessary to his recovery and that the circumstances of his case are such, as to render leave of absence, for the period of six months, highly desirable.

Saint Thomas' Mount,
11th October 1873

(Signed) D KEARNEY,

Surgeon Major
In Medical Charge of Details

Range, dated 4th October 1873. * No 153 Your Honour will be pleased to observe that the Doctor, himself a Surgeon Major, certifies "on honor and sincerely declares" that Petitioner's health is very "much out of order," and that he is suffering from "Incipient Bright disease." Although accustomed to witness suffering from disease in its various malignant forms still by far more merciful and compassionate than Petitioner's own employer and immediate Superior, he affirms that "it would be a pity to press him (Petitioner) to return to duty in his present state of

"health and he is still undergoing treatment." In reply to this letter, the Executive Engineer writes, without hesitating, to say, that "no pressure to return to his duty has been brought to bear upon" Petitioner True, but Petitioner would simply refer to his Memo * No 857 quoted above. His words are "that the District Engineer has stated that he will be obliged to dismiss him (Petitioner) unless he resign his appointment." Mr Harrington continues that "He (Veeraragavooloo Naidoo) has been simply told that to avoid dismissal from the Government Service, he must resign his appointment." But, Honored Sir, Why dismissal? What fault was *investigated and proved* against Petitioner? Who are Petitioner's accusers and their witnesses? When was Petitioner called upon to defend himself against his assailants? Nothing like this is done, and, most extraordinary anomaly! *Petitioner is condemned unheard, and without being afforded the smallest opportunity of defence or explanation!* Honored Sir, it is impossible to believe that, under the British administration, with its world-wide renown for justice and moderation, so glaring an injustice can be deliberately perpetrated against the very meanest of their subjects! If this be permitted by the Controlling Authorities, these subjects must bid a long farewell to all safety, and quietly succumb to the merciless and unjust doings of every official who is "dressed in a little, brief authority." Mr. Harrington concludes that he Petitioner must resign his appointment "not on account of his, Petitioner's health but for utter incompetency, disobedience of orders, and general inefficiency." Petitioner served the Government from 1857

* The Permanent Services of Petitioner extend from 1st July 1857 to 14th October 1873 under the following Officers

1 Colonel Atkinson, R E Sup Engr Presidency

2 Capt H W Rawlins, Garrison Engineer

3 Lieut R H Faber R E Offg Garrison Engr

4 Lieut H L Prendergast, R E Ag Garrison Engr

5 J H Dopping Esqr C E Ag District Engr N Arcot

6 Capt H L Prendergast, District Engineer North Arcot

7 J D Robinson Esqr Collect of North Arcot, worked under him for nearly 3 years, but

was removed from duty on 14th October 1873. Besides, worked under him during

Holidays and Sundays till his departure for Europe in 1871, and received several rewards

from Govt. through him on his strong recommendation for Petitioner's hard and responsible work. His letters in Petitioner's favour

and the Govt. approbation of the same will be seen in the Collectors' records. If necessary, Petitioner can produce a few documents which

he has out of many on this subject.

8 J H Dopping Esqr District Engr N Arcot

9 Major W H Watts for Dist Engr N Arcot

10 Cap J Vertue R E District Engr N Arcot

11 Cap H T Rogers R E Offg District Engineer N Arcot

12 Mr Condor D Booth, Range Officer, Wallajah Range

13 Cap W Christie R E Exe Engr Wallajah Range N Arcot

14 Mr Condor D Booth as before

15 Cap W Christie R E Exe Engr Chittoor Range

16 Mr Condor D Booth as before

17 Mr J O'Shangnessy Asst Engr Chittoor Range

18 Mr Condor D Booth Sub-Engineer Range Officer Wallajah Range

19 Lieut R R E Brockman, Asst. Engr Vellore and Wallajah Range

20 A Parthasarady Iyengar Supervisor, Exe Officer Wallajah Range

21 Mr J W Stevens Exe Officer Wallajah Range, see letter to Col Wilkeson

R E Sup Engr 4th Division No 263 dated 7th Nov 1871 and No 248 dated 16th Oct 1871. See No 8

22 Mr W S Harrington Exe Engr Madras Water Works Project

23 Mr P Walsh Sub Engr in charge Mount Range

24 Mr A Goodchap Exe Engr Mount Range

25 Major J N Hunter Exe Engr Mount Range

26 Mr W S Harrington Exe Engr Mount Range

27 Col F J Moberly R E for Exe Engr Mount Range

28 Mr W S Harrington Exe Engr Mount Range

Note—In numbering the above officials, Petitioner took the number of appointments and not personally the individuals engaged in them—

* No 263

From

J H STEPHENS Esqr

Executive Officer,

In Charge of Wallajah Range,

North Arcot

To

COLONEL C V WILKIESON, R E

Superintending Engineer,

4th Division,

Madras

Sir,

While thanking you for your kindness in appointing Range Draftsman Veeraragavooloo Naidoo as Temporary Overseer, I beg to report that he left this District on the 2nd Instant to

under no less than *28 officials, all of them in the Engineering line, and many of whom were men of great probity, industry and superior ability, and whom Petitioner repeatedly served by being transferred. Is it possible, therefore, is it probable that Petitioner was able to conceal from them his utter incompetency, disobedience of order and general inefficiency? Petitioner shall here give an instance of a letter *No 263 dated 7th November 1871, out of many others from his late Superior, the Wallajah Range Officer of North Arcot, which will show how much confidence was reposed by his employers in his integrity and ability. Should the Executive Engineer specify some instances of these disqualifications, there would then be something tangible for Petitioner to refute and explain, but he cautiously avoids this course, and has recourse merely to vague generalities! On this point, Petitioner must leave you, Honored Sir, to judge after full maturity of thought,

take up his new appointment Before doing so, he gave me the enclosed application also thanking you for his promotion, and soliciting the permanent Vacancy caused by my promotion. He was diffident to make his present Officer the Channel of communication, as that Gentleman is unacquainted with his antecedents, and could not therefore state anything in his favor

In my No 248 of 16th Ultimo I gave you my opinion of Veeraragavooloo, so that it may be unnecessary to make a reiteration here I may however add that I was particularly sorry when he was leaving the Range, as he had been in it for a very long time since the foundation of District Offices, and had found him very useful from the straight forward and ready manner in which he gave me any Official information I may have required relative to matters of administration on works in progress, so that I shall feel thankful if you can give him the permanent post, as I believe he loses service by his temporary appointment which does not reckon towards pension

Camp Palar Annicut,
Wallajah Range Office,
7th November 1871

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant.

(Signed) J H STEPHENS Supervisor
Executive Officer,
In Charge of Wallajah Range,
North Arcot

Letter from Overseer Veeraragavooloo Naidoo, No 59 dated 6th October 1873

* No 936

6th October, 1873

Memo

The Overseer has no Choice, he is ordered to resign, if he does not by return post he will be dismissed

(Signed) W S HARRINGTON

Executive Engineer,
Mount Range

To

S VEERARAGAVOOLOO NAIDOO,

Taluq Overseer

6th instant Petitioner was not to be daunted even by this second and more peremptory order for compulsory resignation, and therefore did not comply with Mr Harrington's pleasure, after which came the last Memo *No 1055 dated 15th October 1873, which Petitioner has already referred to and explained in the first part of this Petition

22 There is another subject of peculiar hardship which your Petitioner begs leave to lay before your Honor, and that is that part of his pay and allowances for the period that he was working hard and meritoriously for Government have been causelessly stopped' Colonel Moberly having become displeased with your Petitioner as regards the New Barracks at St Thomas' Mount, instructed his Range Officer, Mr Harrington, to stop your Petitioner's Pay till this work was made over to Petitioner's successor, Mr Armitage This order was given in May, and the transfer was effected in the following June, during all which time your Petitioner was ailing while he was thrown into a sick bed in September Having been put to very great inconvenience from the want of funds during his helpless state, your Petitioner was compelled to apply officially to the District Engineer for the Pay and allowances due to him; but unfortunately this application, preferred at so critical a period for your Petitioner, remains unnoticed up to this day, which your Petitioner cannot but ascribe to the angry feeling existing against him in the Department It has subsequently come to his knowledge that, out of his Pay proper, Rupees 120, besides travelling allowance due to him which may be ascertained from the Office Records, Petitioner has been fined *in half of his pay*, and kept out of his travelling allowance altogether! He cannot but feel surprised at this extraordinary fine, for it is impossible to reconcile it with the standing rules of the Department, enacted by a generous and high-minded Government, for the benefit of an important branch of their service, a Department which has enlisted the attention of even so very high an authority as the British Parliament, that no subordinate should be mulcted in more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of his month's Pay Not only is your humble Petitioner's Pay thus arbitrarily withheld from him, but he is kept out of his travelling allowance also! Your Petitioner need not here dwell on

and he humbly craves that your honor will be pleased, like an independent English Gentleman, to give Petitioner the benefit of your Honor's unbiased judgment. Such a general and indefinite charge may be brought by a malicious employer against even the most innocent subordinate If so, is the subordinate to be forced to resign, or to be dismissed? If this is the rule, or principle which Government desire to be practised, then the Government service becomes a mere sham, and not one employé in it can be sure of his footing for even one day In reply, therefore, to the above order of Colonel Moberly, Petitioner sent in an answer declining, of course, to resign his situation Mr Harrington was, however, not to be deterred from his stern, unrelenting resolve-Vide *No 936 dated

how studiously oppressive all this is against an humble subordinate, now helplessly prostrated by accumulated misfortunes!

23 Petitioner respectfully begs to advert to the result of his Supervision of the New Barracks' work The project had been in execution for years under the supervision of Aroomoogam Moodelly, Overseer In 1872, it was found that the estimate had been exceeded by Rupees 30,000, in consequence of which Aroomoogam Moodelly was eventually dismissed Colonel Wilkieson, when posting Petitioner to this work, expressly pointed out to Petitioner the fate which had befallen Petitioner's predecessors, and strongly advised Petitioner to adopt a strictly honest course, and to guard against the machinations of the subordinates in the Mount Range The pains Petitioner bestowed upon the work were such that, for the short period he had charge, he effected a saving of Rs 5,000

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
6th May 1872.*

* No 118 Read the following letter from the Officiating Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated, Madras 13th April 1872, No, 194 —

REFERRING to Government Order No 539, dated 28th February 1872, I have the honour to report that Colonel Wilkieson, R E, appointed S Veeraragavooloo Naidoo, at present employed as Local Overseer on the Red Hills project, to the post of Taluq Overseer in the Mount Range, Chingleput District, *vice* Aroomoogam Moodelly, whose conduct was brought to the notice of Government in connection with the excess on the Artillery Barracks at St Thomas' Mount in letter No 3,705, dated 8th December 1871

2 Veeraragavooloo Naidoo was originally entertained as a Maistry in the late Maramut department, where he was subsequently made Sub-Overseer On the re-organization of the department, in 1863, he was taken as a Draughtsman and Estimator in the late District Engineer's Office of the North Arcot District

3 In this capacity he served for about eight years and was afterwards transferred as a Local Overseer, where he was usefully employed in superintending the various works His service amounts to upwards of seventeen years

4 He is a practical builder and understands plan-drawing, estimating, surveying, and levelling. Veeraragavooloo Naidoo's services were for some time placed at the disposal of the Collector of North Arcot, and Mr Robinson spoke very highly of his qualifications as a man of business habits

6 Colonel Wilkieson nominated Veeraragavooloo Naidoo as Taluq Overseer with reference to the Government Order above quoted, in which the Government left it optional with the Superintending Engineer to dispense with the services of Overseer Aroomoogam Moodelly, but Colonel Wilkieson thought proper to give the latter another chance of retrieving his character, and merely degraded him and placed in his stead Veeraragavooloo Naidoo

7 I trust the measure will be approved of by Government.

No 119

ORDER THEREON, 6th May, 1872, *No 1,164

ESTABLISHMENT, No 13

The appointment of S Veeraragavooloo Naidoo as a Taluq Overseer in room of Aroomoogam Moodelly, re-
dated, is confirmed

(True Extract)

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

To the Officiating Superintending Engineer, 4th Division
Controller of Public Works Accounts

24 That Petitioner is at this present time suffering from two kinds of very severe disease, one of them the Diabetes which is dangerous, and the other the Bleeding Piles, extremely distressing and entailing constant trouble, is a fact made patent by the certificate of Doctor Kearney, Surgeon Major, and a Professional Gentleman of long practice and extensive experience The Piles Petitioner has had for the last ten years, but this malady, beyond occasioning general debility and inconvenience, does nothing to endanger life immediately It is the Diabetes which has been upon him for the last two years, which augments his weakness gradually, and renders his health extremely precarious! Surgeon Major

A part of this saving was however used by Mr Armitage to cover excesses in timber work which cost Rs 3 per Cubic foot, while the rate entered in the Sanctioned Estimate was only Rs 2-9-0 per Cubic foot Mr Armitage acknowledges a net saving of Rs 1,000 in the final results Petitioner had also made a saving of Rs 742-11-8 in the Verandah work to the North and South Barracks, and a further small saving of Rs 15-10-4 out of 100 Rs in repairing the Subsidiary Jail in Poonamallee For this honesty, Petitioner has been rewarded with dismissal! Though appointed by Colonel Wilkieson, Petitioner was confirmed in the post of Taluq Overseer by your Honor on a representation of Petitioner's case by Colonel Goddard, R E then officiating Superintending Engineer, 4th Division. Vide G O *No 1,164, dated 6th May 1872

Kearney has examined Petitioner thoroughly, and is of opinion that a six months' relaxation from work will help materially in restoring him to moderate health at least. Petitioner, therefore, humbly and earnestly solicits the favour of being restored to his post, and of being indulged with six months' leave of absence on the Medical certificate. Petitioner will exert his best endeavours for a perfect restoration, but should he fail, it will then be left entirely to Government to decide finally, whether he may resume active work, or retire on the poor pittance of one-third pension. Petitioner has completed 17 years of continuous permanent service, anterior to which he served the Government in temporary employ for three years, but all along without any break even for one day.

25 Petitioner earnestly trusts, therefore, that your honour will be graciously pleased, in kind consideration of these facts, to vouchsafe to him a favourable reply to this humble solicitation from a servant of Government, who has served the state industriously, honestly and zealously for nearly 17 years, but who has at last been doomed to fall under the dire displeasure of an employer, whose anger against him he cannot account for and deeply deplures.

26 Just as Petitioner had concluded this Petition, he received intelligence of the death of the Overseer in charge of the Fort works under Colonel Goddard, R. E., District Engineer, Presidency. Petitioner humbly solicits that should your honour, upon deliberate and mature consideration of Petitioner's case, come to the conclusion that Petitioner has been harshly dealt with, and that some restitution is necessary, Petitioner may be appointed to the vacancy just referred to. Petitioner seeks the Presidency, because his state of health demands the best Medical attendance, and this can best be secured at the Presidency, and because the sea-air will materially aid in his restoration to health.

And for which act of kindness Petitioner,

Shall Ever Pray.

[Signed] S. Veeraragunooloo Naidoo

SYDAPETT,

1st December 1873

Late Taluq Overseer, P. W. D.

Mount Range, Chinglepet District

[A true copy]

Veeraragunooloo Naidoo
Late Taluq Overseer
D. P. W.

To

HIS EXCELLENCY W. ROBINSON, C. S. I.,
GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL OF

Fort Saint George,
OOTACAMUND.

*The Humble Appeal Memorial of S VEERARAGAYOOLOO NAIDOO,
Late Taluk Overseer, P W D, Mount Range,
Chingleput District*

MOST HUMBLY SHEWETH,

1 That your Excellency's humble Memorialist begs leave with the sincerest sentiments of deference and humility to approach your Excellency with this appeal, in the sanguine hope that your Excellency will be graciously pleased to pardon him for his intrusion on your Excellency's precious time and attention, and vouchsafe to the following lines your Excellency's most generous consideration. The public at large are unanimous in sounding your Excellency's praises, for your Honor's just appreciation of deserving merit, and studied abhorrence of duplicity and immorality in every form. It is your Excellency's glory to be now elevated to the highest pinnacle of power, influence and grandeur in this important "jewel in the crown of England;" but according to Christian ethics, your Excellency's humble Memorialist is convinced that these glittering distinctions are as nothing in your exalted estimation as that of doing even-handed justice even to the meanest under the beneficent auspices of your Excellency's happy sway—a transcendental quality which bears some resemblance to the dread attributes of the most high Himself. It is the rare privilege of being securely shielded by this attribute that your Excellency's humble Memorialist claims on this most momentous occasion, with the view to which Memorialist ventures to beg leave to solicit your precious attention to this address. To render the coming narrative connected and complete, it is necessary to begin with the history of your humble Memorialist's official career, which will finally lead to the subject in hand. Should this address be considered prolix, your Excellency's humble Memorialist will feign hope that your Honor will condescend to pardon him, and to feel that there is nothing superfluous in it for the purpose intended.

2 Memorialist entered the service of Government in permanent employ as Assistant Draftsman of the late Garrison Engineer's Office, Fort Saint George, in 1837 on a salary of Rupees 10-8 per mensem.

3 Before the expiration of 2 years, or in February 1839, he was promoted to the Head Draftsman-ship in the District Engineer's Office, North Arcot, on 60 Rupees a month, besides travelling allowance being given him.

4 In 1863, all the District Engineers' offices being abolished, Memorialist was recommended to apply for pension if he had service, or to accept a Donation in lieu when the re-organization of the D P W took place, but as Memorialist had only a service of six years, and was ambitious to continue in Government employment, and then qualify for pension, he preferred the service, of course. The District Engineer of North Arcot considering these facts maturely appointed him a Draftsman for his, the Wallajah, Range, in the same district. It should here be noted that hitherto there was no Draftsman for the Range officers, but as the Wallajah Range was of the 1st class and could not work satisfactorily without such an official, Memorialist was appointed to it. The salary, however, was reduced to Rs 40, (whereas Memorialist was in the receipt as Draftsman alone, of Rs. 60 monthly), on which

From

S. VEERARAGAYOOLOO NAIDOO,
LATE TALUK OVERSEER P W D

Mount Range,
Chingleput District,
Syduput

To

COLONEL G. W. WALKER, R. E.,
Secretary to Government,

Fort Saint George,
Madras

DATED 1st December, 1873
RECEIVED

Appeals against his dismissal by the District Engineer of Chingleput while Petitioner was undergoing Medical treatment, and shows reasons against it, with a request that he might be reinstated and obtain leave, submitting copy of a Medical Certificate for such leave, the original of which was sent to the Executive Engineer by the Medical Officer himself.

arrangement he had to discharge the duties not only of a Draftsman but also those of an Estimator. At these duties he laboured on for 8 consecutive years or up to 1871 during which period he was occasionally deputed to work in the Chittur Range, in addition to his own proper one the work. As the mere remodeling of the entire Department was then but recently introduced Government will, no doubt, feel no difficulty in realizing the fact that the work was abundant as well as very irksome in the Range. In addition to all this which was in itself more than what would have fallen to the happy lot of any one employ in the ordinary course, Memorialist had the additional labour of working for the Collector of the District also in Government business. This was ascribable to the Surveyors employed under the Collectors having been dispensed with after the arrangements then recently introduced into the D P W. Reference to Memorialist's first appeal Memorial of the 1st December 1873, Note to para 21 page 11, will show the details of this arrangement to which Memorialist asks permission respectively to refer.

5 The principal Collector of North Arcot and the Executive Officer of the Wallajah Range finding that your Excellency's Memorialist discharged these numerous and laborious duties with undiminished industry and undeviating integrity of purpose, recommended the former to the late Superintending Engineer 4th Division merely demi-officially and the latter Range Officer also wrote officially in No 263 dated 7th November 1871 to the same Superintending Engineer, and in No 248 dated 15th October preceding, the particulars of which will be seen in Memorialist's first appeal, para 21, page 11. A glance at the letter of the late Executive Officer in charge of the Wallajah Range to Colonel C V Wilkeson, R. E., Superintending Engineer 4th Division Madras, will show at once the unexceptionably good character and the high estimation in which his untiring services were considered by his indulgent employers, as will also the letter of the Superintending Engineer 4th Division to Government, dated 15th April 1872, No 194 para 3, which bears testimony to the Collector of North Arcot having spoken "very highly of Memorialist's qualifications as a man of business habits" even at this early period of Memorialist's service. Previous to this recommendation, Memorialist was merely a temporary Overseer, but now he was promoted to the permanent post of Temporary Overseer, having thus served as a temporary Overseer for only a few short months, in which in addition to his pay proper of Rs 60 per mensem, (which was his late salary as Head Draftsman) Memorialist drew Rs 105 per mensem, though no person could have been allowed to Taluk Overseers. It is here worthy of remark, how very early in Memorialist's career Colonel Moberly became his foe! Memorialist was, in accordance with the Rule, quite entitled to draw Rs 45 as Tentage, but Colonel Moberly objected to this without even the slightest shadow of a cause; and suffered him, though most unwillingly to draw double horse allowance viz, 30 Rupees only thereby making the poor Memorialist a loser of Rs 15 per month which a generous Government after complete discussion and deliberation in Council, thought fit to allow to his class of public servants.

6 It was from here that Memorialist was transferred to superintend the new Horse Artillery Barracks building at St. Thomas' Mount, which was estimated to cost Rs 2,37,885. Memorialist will now beg leave to refer to para 23, page 13 of his first printed Memorial, dated 1st December 1873, in which these facts are detailed. It was here that a most baneful misfortune first crossed Memorialist's hitherto fair and successful career. Out of the above large estimate of nearly 2½ lakhs of Rupees, Memorialist's predecessor had already expended less than about 3-4ths, so that there remained only about 90,000 Rupees to be expended out of the original estimate. But having been well accustomed to a uniform course of careful and economical working in the Department all along, and being thoroughly familiar with all the details and peculiarities of constructing Public Buildings during the short time that Memorialist was in charge, that is for only one year, Memorialist was enabled happily to effect an actual saving to Government of Rs 5,000, and this too out of a limited expenditure of about 40,000 Rupees out of the above balance of Rs 90,000 which remained unexpended when Memorialist assumed charge of the works. It was now that Memorialist was removed from this work, because he had not expended his allotment which, however, is explained in detail in Memorialist's first appeal already quoted. The accumulated troubles which at this time came upon Memorialist and all that has since transpired Government are already aware of, but Memorialist deeply regrets that although he was once restored to his post by order of Government in the D P W dated 29th January 1874, No 207, he was not enabled to rejoin his appointment on account of his late serious illness and that done, as he was on sick leave on a suitable Medical Certificate. It was against this restoration that Colonel Moberly wrote on the 7th February 1874, but Government impartially and even magnanimously withstood the hostile advances of the Colonel and decided in their order of the 16th March 1874, No 722 that your Excellency's Memorialist should be restored. This exercise of a benignant and most generous policy was followed up by a still more liberal concession, which was that "should (Memorialist) when restored to health prove unequal to the duties of an Overseer, work more suited to his capacity should be found for him".

7 Although Memorialist was thus honorably acquitted and restored to his post, the Colonel was determined on crushing him, and, therefore, reverted to some of the effete charges which he had already brought against Memorialist at a time when Memorialist was on leave after restoration and had not as yet joined the Department which Memorialist had fully explained, and with which explanation Government were so completely satisfied as to order his restoration. To Memorialist's utter surprise however, Colonel Moberly was not to be disappointed in his implacable revenge. He returned to his uniform course of bitter hostility in Memorialist's poor regard, and to effect his complete ruin Captain Smith, the Executive Engineer, Mount Range came to his Principal's timely assistance. It was in handing over copies of a letter and of 4 estimates received from his subordinate the Executive Engineer, Mount Range, that the Colonel condemned the Memorialist, although up to this late stage of the proceedings against Memorialist the Colonel "had strong reason to suspect (only) that Memorialist was in collusion with the contractors," &c, "and he more than once heard that Veeraragavooloo Nudoo was the real contractor." It is upon vague, indefinite charges and suppositions such as these that the Government have been pleased, to Memorialist's complete astonishment, authorize Memorialist's dismissal!

8 Memorialist cannot but feel quite astonished at this most extraordinary and inconsiderate decision! It would appear that Memorialist "had in several instances prepared estimates for closing breaches in the bunds of tanks, such breaches having no existence," &c. What these breaches are for which the estimates were falsely prepared and what the Tanks in which the imaginary breaches occurred are left wholly to conjecture, not one of them being specified! The next accusation is equally indefinite and shadowy, for it is merely alleged that Memorialist's "conduct has been altogether unsatisfactory." In what respect, and on what occasions? If Memorialist's "conduct had been altogether unsatisfactory," surely some clear instances could easily be adduced to prove the fact! Having been "altogether unsatisfactory" his conduct must have been, in most instances, faulty if not *unmistakably criminal*! If so, why not adduce definite instances? Why not cite the delinquent before the Judicial Tribunals under the Criminal Procedure Code, which is so very conveniently handy for such proceedings? This could have been done under various heads of charge such as "Cheating," "Felony," "Criminal Misappropriation" of Government Funds, "Attempt at Fraud," "Fraud," &c. Had this course been pursued, Memorialist is strongly persuaded that the criminal tribunals, in sifting the facts with the efficient assistance of skilful barristers would have victoriously got Memorialist out of the specious snare so artfully spread out for his capture!

9 But no such impartial or constitutional means of examination and punishment are had recourse to! Indefinite charges are arrayed against him. The unfounded and partial allegations of a Gentleman in power and of high and influential connections are patiently listened to and taken for granted, without enquiry and without even the shadow of proof, and your Excellency's humble and helpless Memorialist, after faithfully serving Government for 18 long years, in sickness and in health, through bad and good repute, in the Presidency and up the country, while in something like comforts, and while enduring bitter discomfort and even privations, though first unconditionally acquitted of the charges alleged against him is, on the second occasion, quickly shelved without the slightest means of support and without the hope of future employment, even in that of an inferior post of Memorialist's former Draftsmanship! Memorialist cannot help submitting that this is very severe against him who is helpless! If the accusation alleged against him by Colonel Moberly had been proved—if there was anything like even probability as to their truth, there would be some colourable pretext for Memorialist's dismissal, but every allegation against Memorialist has been successfully explained, and proves to be gratuitous! Memorialist has orally as well as in writing challenged such proof, but all to no purpose! All that remains is the bare word, the gratuitous assertion of the Colonel, which is with avidity taken for granted and passes unchallenged, while Memorialist's most earnest appeals, and even entreaties for a fair hearing and no favour, are allowed to pass disregarded. Surely, Honorable Sir, it is impossible to believe that the British Government in India, which constantly and persistently professes to measure out unalloyed justice to all parties alike, be they European, Hindu, Mahomedan or of any other nationality, would allow such anomalous proceedings to take place, merely because there is, on the one hand, a Colonel of influence and high position, and on the other but a mere Hindu like your Excellency's humble Memorialist, of no influence whatever, and but very low in the scale of social life at present, although he is directly and legitimately descended from one of the noblest families of India. Memorialist cannot believe that a Christian Government such as the British, which should stand as a burning and a shining light to all the others around it, would be guilty of so gross a contradiction as to profess one doctrine and to practice its opposite! Memorialist feels that you for one, Honorable Sir, and your high-minded colleagues in the Madras Council would readily and cheerfully respond to this your humble Memorialist's respectful and earnest appeal, coming as it does from a helpless and defenceless Hindu! Your Memorialist considers

Your Excellency in the light of the Secretary of State for India in India and I entertain the sanguine hope that your Excellency will be graciously pleased to lend Memorialist on to victory. Your Excellency's high determination in Council, especially in a cause so just and unobjectionable as your Excellency's humble Memorialist's, will undoubtedly crown this cause with entire success, and your Excellency's humble Memorialist only regrets, that he cannot wait on your Excellency with this humble Memorial and deliver it personally, so as to hear full from your lips some gracious words of comfort and encouragement on the auspicious occasion!

10 After all the above explanation which your Excellency's most humble Memorialist trusts will prove satisfactory to your Excellency he must now make bold to conclude with his prayer. In his Memorial to Government of the 25th February last after submitting a brief resumé of his deplorable case, relying on the magnanimous view of Government towards their Subordinate employes, Memorialist was emboldened to request to be restored to his post, but it pleased Government to decline this request in the following words: "Memorialist's retention in the D P W is inadvisable, and his application for restoration cannot be acceded to." But there is another alternative for relief to which Memorialist humbly conceives there can be no objection. According to the new Pension Rules for Subordinate Establishments which have recently come into force, the period for qualifying for 1-3rd pension is 15 years. Your Excellency's humble Memorialist has however been in active employ for the last 18 years during all which time he has never been absent from his works, nor had he obtained leave for any purpose whatever even for one day. Further, he never lost a single pie by fine or forfeiture from any cause whatever, except on the last occasion when Colonel Moberly became his inveterate opponent and was not to be appeased. From so irate an employer nothing but such treatment could be expected, but laying this aside, Memorialist submits that there is no reason why he should not be pensioned in the usual course, as many others have been under almost similar circumstances. Although Government were pleased to restore Petitioner to his appointment on his first appeal dated 14th December 1873 by their magnanimous order No 207 dated 29th January 1874, he never joined his appointment, having been on Medical Certificate up to the date of dismissal. It should here be observed that though the District Engineer objected to the Memorialist's restoration by Government, they were not pleased to accept his objection, but passed an order dated 16th March 1874, No 702 that Memorialist should be restored. He has, he is happy to say completed nearly 19 years' good and faithful service, and therefore he now humbly conceives that he is undoubtedly qualified for 1-3rd Pension. This then Memorialist earnestly requests that your Excellency will be graciously pleased to sanction for him, for which he will owe your Excellency a debt of undying gratitude. Since being subjected to ill-treatment by Colonel Moberly, he has lost his Father, Brother, a Son and Daughter, all four of whom pined away from grief and unavoidable privations, and succumbed under disease!

And your Excellency's
Humble Memorialist
Shall ever pray,

M. Narayana Rao

Late Taluq Overseer, P W D,
Mount Range, Chingleput District.

RECEIVED

28 June 1875

28/6/75

AN ORDER "No. 207" was issued on 29th July 1874, No 2082, that he should be allowed to resume his work, since which Memorialist was still on leave, during which interval he was dismissed.

Recd-14-8-75 File 17-8-75
Recd-14-8-75 File 17-8-75
Dr. M. Narayana Rao

1975

FROM

S. VERRINGTON 00100 NIDDO.
LATE LALLU OVERSEER, P. W. D.,
Mount Range,
Chongleput District,
Sylhet 11

TO

HIS EXCELLENCY
W. ROBINSON, C. S. I.,
Governor in Council
Fort Saint George,
Calcutta 1

DATED 25th June 1875

RECEIVED in the British India
at 17th Dec 1875
— 1903

Reviews again the outline of the circum-
stances under which he is placed, and as
Government decline to restore him to his
post as requested by him all along, he now
solicits that he may be allowed the pension
which may be conceded to him, as it has been
to others under the revised Rules. States
that Government restored him in their order
of the 20th January 1874, but that Colonel
Moberly would not consent to it. However,
that Government insisted again, and ordered
30th July 1874, No 2,062, that he should be
allowed to resume his work, since which
Memorandum was still on leave, during which
interval he was dismissed

Dec-14-875
1903
1903

Good done
at 20th Dec 1875

Transferred to
at 20th Dec 1875
Chongleput District
Sylhet 11
1903
1903
1903

Public Works Dept.

Endorsement on Petition from S. Veera-
ragavooloo Naidoo dated 25th July 1875
28th June 1875

State for India
praying for restoration
Kishoree-pot
Kishoree-pot
Kishoree-pot

Government of Madras.

23rd Aug. 1875.

DEPARTMENT.

Petition No. 1675 of 1875

From S. Veeragavooloo

Naidoo
Occupation 1st Taluk
S. Veeragavooloo

Village

Talook

District

Dated 25th July

Received 4th Aug

Enclosure

ABSTRACT.

Submitted for transmission
as memorial to the
Secretary's Secretary

The Honble the
Governor in Council
declines to admit
the Petitioners' claim
to pension.

Fort St. George.
26th August 1875

Secy
Wm. 14/8

Des- 27-8-75

W. J. J. J.
2nd
4/6/77

To
The Honorable D. J. Carmichael,
Chief Secretary to the Government of
Port Saint George

Honorable Sir,

I respectfully beg you will be
pleased, with the permission of His Grace the
Governor-in-Council, to submit the accompanying
Memorial for the favourable consideration and
orders of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for
India in Council, with your kind support thereto.

Enclosures
Two

I beg to add, Honorable Sir,
that you will see that my case is a singularly un-
fortunate one, and, as a special favor, humbly
hope that you will be pleased to accord me your
special support.

I need hardly to say that I shall
be truly grateful to you for any thing you may be
pleased to do in aiding me to obtain justice, either
in this Country or in England.

With submission

I beg to subscribe myself,
Honorable Sir,

Your most obedient and
humble Servant,

Veeraragavoochoo Naidoo

Late Taluk Overseer in the
Public Works Department.

Sydney,
25th May
1877.

Despatched 2nd June 1877

80
256

*Concluded
of*

Dated 25th May }
 Dated 23rd June } 1877.

Chief, Sect. to Government,
Post Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

27
26
The Honorable W. W. Phelps
Carmichael,

To
 D. Werninganocho Purisima,
 Late of the University
 D. W. D.

[Signature]

Proc. J. S. D. No. 283 w f
7th June 177

— To, The Most Honble the
Secretary of State for India.

My Lord Marquis,

We have the honor to forward a Memorial addressed to your Lordship by one S. V. Veeraragavoolo Naidoo, late an Overseer in our Public Works Department.

2. We also forward
with reference to this
Memorial

N^o 204 -

Memorial, ^{the} marginal
proceedings of his Hon.

Go. No. 722 of 15th March 1874
— 2062 — 30th July —

EA7

14/6/77

Fort Saint George

Public Works Department

Letter to the Most Honorable
the Secretary of State for India

Dated 30th June
No. 26 of 1877

Original & copy sent per
Overland mail on the
11th July 1877

Copy sent to Govt of India
on the 14th July 1877.

Forwarding a Memorial
from S. Visagavooloo Naidoo
late Sahib, Officer P. W. Dept.
and proceedings bearing
on his case.

EA7

No. 283 W P. W. D. Genl

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 22nd June 1877

Read the following:—

Petition from S. Visagavooloo } P.W.D. dated 25th May 1877
Naidoo —



The petitioner's
memorial will be forward-
ed to the Secretary of
State for India.

EA7

14/6/77

To The Petitioner. ✓

Impd. 3.7.77

EA7

MP

Petition General
Govt. of 1877
PUBLIC WORKS. ✓

To

Dated

Is at

Recd

Encl

G O,

1877, No 283 N

Hos.

Amiragaroo Hai
Do Late Babu M...
and General...
...