

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	603 (W)	Press
		Mis.
Dated	22-2-	1877.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 545. Read the following letter from Major H. W. WOOD, R.E., District Engineer, Vizagapatam, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Waltair, 8th February 1877, No. 2,259 :—

I HAVE the honor to submit my recommendation that Overseer Bennett be remanded to his Regiment, from the end of this official year, for the following reasons.

2. On 26th December 1876, I appointed Mr. Hudson, a Pensioned Sub-Engineer of the Public Works Department, to the charge of the works being carried on at Koraput, *vice* Mr. Huxham deceased; and I intimated this appointment to Overseer Bennett.

3. Mr. Hudson, travelling by the Pachipenta Ghaut, arrived at Koraput in the beginning of the second week of January; but was unable to take up his duties until my arrival some days afterwards, as the native, who on Mr. Bennett's recommendation had been placed in charge of the works, since Mr. Huxham's decease, had refused to hand over the work, on the plea that he had received no instructions to the effect from Overseer Bennett, who had left Koraput immediately before Mr. Hudson's arrival. I had met Overseer Bennett on the Potinghy Ghaut on my way to Koraput, but he said nothing on the subject; and I proceeded onwards under the impression that he had handed over the works regularly to Mr. Hudson. Overseer Bennett himself returned to Parvatipur.

4. On my looking into matters after arriving at Koraput I found everything in a state of confusion. The records were incomplete, while no list of stock or tools existed, and the native in charge on being questioned could or would give no information.

5. I consequently wrote an order to Overseer Bennett, dated Koraput, 16th January 1877, in which I directed him to return forthwith and to give over the works properly to Mr. Hudson, so that matters should be put on a proper footing once for all.

6. I have this day, 24th January, received a letter from Overseer Bennett, in which he states, what I was aware of before, that when the works at Koraput were taken over from the civil authorities everything at Koraput, in the shape of records and stock accounts, were in the greatest confusion; and he therefore submits that his return to Koraput is unnecessary.

7. Overseer Bennett has been in charge of these works since 19th July last, and the state of confusion described he has not yet attempted to rectify. Still more, he has designedly attempted to continue it, first, by omitting to make proper arrangements for handing over the works to Mr. Hudson; and, second, by failing to obey my order to return forthwith to Koraput and put matters on a proper footing once for all.

8. A second reason for the recommendation I make is as follows :—On the opening of the Potinghy Ghaut Works this season, I directed Overseer Bennett to forward me weekly a return of the number of work-people employed; in order that I might, in conformity with your wishes, be able to carefully supervise the progress of the work during this official year. Mr. Bennett forwarded me a return for the week ending 3rd December, showing 1,493 as the total number of coolies employed during that space of time. The second report for the week ending 10th December showed 436

coolies only to be the total number employed. I called for explanation of the decrease, but Overseer Bennett has given me no reply; he however sent, on 24th December, a revised return for the same period showing 1,784 to have been the correct number of coolies for the week ending 10th December. He requested that this return might be substituted for the one previously forwarded, which was "the report of a Goomastah." It was however signed by Overseer Bennett as acting Range Officer.

9. Since the "revised" return just mentioned great delay has occurred in the submission of returns showing the number of coolies employed on the Ghaut Works. On asking Overseer Bennett, at Sunkycottah, on 12th January, the reason of his neglect of duty on this point, he replied that returns had been sent to my Office, and that they had been delayed in consequence of the frequent illness of the Sub-Overseer (Comaraswamy) in charge of the Ghaut Works. This man however informed me, in answer to my inquiries on the subject made upon my return from Koraput, on 23rd January, that weekly returns had been sent to Overseer Bennett regularly.

10. Such are the grounds on which I think it my duty to forward a recommendation that Overseer Bennett be remanded to his regiment. If I had a good word to say in his favor in other respects, I should certainly not withhold it. Unfortunately I am convinced that, owing to the Overseer's incapacity and sloth, the interests of Government are wholly sacrificed in the Jeypore Range. Overseer Bennett leaves everything to be done by his native subordinates without supervising or instructing them as far as I am able to detect, while he is also grossly negligent in the payment of work-people. The coolies working upon the road near Ramabhadrapuram were, for example, paid on the 7th December last; and on that occasion they were marched in for the purpose to Bobbili a distance of 15 miles from the spot where some of the work was being executed. Payment is now due to the work-people of the same locality from 4th December last, and this delay in properly paying coolies is adhered to in spite of my most urgent personal and written instructions on the subject.

11. On the road between Parvatipur and Veeragottam, the last payment was made to coolies on 13th December; on which date two months' wages were disbursed. Since then for a period of 28 days about Rupees 150 only are shown by the station-books to be due for a work on which about Rupees 3,000 remained to be spent before the 31st March.

12. I presume I need take up no more of your time by specifying further reasons in support of the recommendation I have made in this letter, but, if necessary, I can furnish additional ones to the same effect. I should probably have addressed you before now regarding Overseer Bennett's incapacity had I been aware of his previous career; but on looking at his record of service in November last, I found an entry signed by Supervisor Cormac giving him a most flattering character.

13. No entry had been made of the punishment awarded to Mr. Bennett in your memorandum No. 1,853, of 23rd December 1874, in Serjeant Bennett's record of service, although the contents of this memorandum was communicated to him through Supervisor Cormac himself.

14. I consequently restricted myself in November last to entering a reprimand for neglect of duty in the Overseer's record of service.

No. 546. ORDER THEREON, 22nd February 1877, No. 603.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 30-A.

THESE papers will be communicated, through the Military Department, to His Excellency the Commander-in-chief, with a view to Serjeant G. Bennett being remanded to his corps, his further employment in the Public Works Department being considered undesirable.

(True Extract.)

Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Vizagapatam.
" Military Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

N^o 2259

District Engineers Office

Walter 8 - February 1877

From

Major H. W. Wood B.E.

District Engineer

Tiragapatam

To

Lieut^{nt} Colonel J. Mullins B.E.

Chief Engineer P.W.D.

Madras

Sir

I have the honor to submit my recommendation that Overseer Bennett be remanded to his Regiment, from the end of this official year, for the following reasons.

On 26th December 1876, I appointed Mr. Hudson, a Pensioned Sub Engineer of the P.W.D. to the charge of the works being carried on at Koraput, vice Mr. Huxham deceased; and I intimated this appointment to Overseer Bennett.

Mr. Hudson, travelling by the Pachipenta Ghaut arrived at Koraput, in the beginning of the second week of January; but was unable to take up his duties until my arrival some days afterwards, as the native, who on Mr. Bennett's recommendation had

been

been placed in charge of the works, since Mr. Huaham's decease, had refused to hand over the works, on the plea that he had received no instructions to the effect from Overseer Bennett, who had left Koraput immediately before Mr. Hudson's arrival. I had met Overseer Bennett on the Potinghy Ghaut on my way to Koraput, but he said nothing on the subject; and I proceeded onwards under the impression, that he had handed over the works regularly to Mr. Hudson. Overseer Bennett himself, returned to Parvatipur.

On my looking into matters after arriving at Koraput, I found every thing in a state of confusion. The records were incomplete, while no list of stock or tools existed and the native in charge on being questioned could or would give no information.

I consequently wrote an order to Overseer Bennett dated Koraput 16th January 1877 in which I directed him to return forthwith and to give over the works properly to Mr. Hudson, so that matters should be put on a proper footing once for all.

I have this day 24th January received a letter from Overseer Bennett, in which he states, what I was aware of before, that when the works at Koraput were taken over

over from the civil authorities, everything at Koraput in the shape of records and stock accounts were in the greatest confusion; and he therefore submits that his return to Koraput is unnecessary.

Overseer Bennett has been in charge of these works since 19th July last and the state of confusion described, he has not yet attempted to rectify. Still more, he has designedly attempted to continue it, 1st by omitting to make proper arrangements for handing over the works to Mr. Hudson and 2^d by failing to obey my order to return forthwith to Koraput and put matters on a proper footing once for all.

A second reason for the recommendation I make is as follows. On the opening of the Potinghy Ghaut Works this season, I directed Overseer Bennett, to forward me weekly, a return of the number of works people employed, in order that I might, in conformity with your wishes, be able to carefully supervise the progress of the work, during this official year. Mr. Bennett forwarded me a return for the week ending 3rd December showing 1493 as the total number of coolies employed during that space of time. The second report for the week ending 10th December showed 436 coolies only to be the total number employed. I called for explanation of the

the decrease, but Overseer Bennett has given me no reply; he however sent on 24th December a revised return for the same period showing 1784 to have been the correct number of coolies for the week ending 10th December. He requested that this return might be substituted for the one previously forwarded, which was "the report of a Goomastah." It was however signed by Overseer Bennett as acting Range Officer.

Since the revised return just mentioned great delay has occurred in submission of returns showing the number of coolies employed on the Ghaut Works. On asking Overseer Bennett at Lunkya Cottas on 12th January, the reason of his neglect of duty on this point, he replied that returns had been sent to my Office, and that they had been delayed in consequence of the frequent illness of the Sub Overseer (Coomaraswamy) in charge of the Ghaut Works. This man however informed me in answer to my enquiries on the subject made upon my return from Koraput on 23rd January, that weekly returns had been sent Overseer Bennett regularly.

Such are the grounds on which I think it my duty to forward a recommendation that Overseer Bennett be remanded to his regiment. If I had a good word to

to say in his favor in other respects, I should certainly not withhold it. Unfortunately, I am convinced that, owing to the Overseers incapacity and sloth, the interests of Government are wholly sacrificed in the Jeypore Range. Overseer Bennett leaves everything to be done by his native subordinates without supervising or instructing them as far as I am able to detect; while he is also grossly negligent in the payment of Work people. The coolies working upon the road near Ramabhadrapuram, were, for example paid on the 7th December last, and on that occasion they were marched in for the purpose to Bobbili a distance of 15 miles from the spot where some of the work was being executed. Payment is now due to the Work people of the same locality from 4th December last and this delay in properly paying coolies is adhered to in spite of my most urgent personal and written instructions on the subject.

On the road between Parvatipur and Veragottan the last payment was made to coolies on 13th December on which date two months wages were disbursed. Since then for a period of 28 days about Rs. 150 only are shown by the station books to be due for a work, on which about Rs. 3000 remained to be spent before the 31st March.

I presume I need take up no more of your time by specifying further reasons in support of the recommendation I have made in this letter. But if necessary, I can furnish additional ones to the same effect. I should probably have addressed you before now regarding Overseer Bennett's incapacity had I been aware of his previous career; but on looking at his record of service in November last, I found an entry signed by Supervisor Cormac giving him a most flattering character.

No entry had been made of the punishment awarded to Mr. Bennett in your Memo N. 1853 of 23rd December 1874 in Sergeant Bennett's record of service, although the contents of this Memo was communicated to him through Supervisor Cormac himself.

I consequently restricted myself in November last to entering a reprimand for neglect of duty in the Overseer's record of service.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Obedt. Servt.

Amrood. Major R.E.

District Engineer
Vizagapatam

Received 11/1/75.

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*Wm
Horse
The District Engineer
of
the
Engelhardt
and
Engineering
Co.
J. H. D.
Madras*

No 2259

Lieutenant G. Bennett
 1st Army Corps Engineers
 Change — Submitting
 Recommendation that
 — be promoted
 to 2nd Regiment.

№ 545-

Q 166

Public Works Department. 5

No 603

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 22 Feb/77

Read the following :—

From

From
The Dist: Engr: Vizagapatam (H. E. No. 2259 d/sth Feb/77)

These papers will be communicated through the Military Dept., to His Excellency the Commander in Chief, with a view to Sergeant G. Bennett being returned to his Corps; his further employment in the Public Works Department being considered undesirable.

May. 19/2

D. C. Vizagapatam

Military Dept.

8-3-77

1878

Oct. of 1877 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The D. C. Vizagapatam

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 22 Feb 1877, No. 603

Taken up for

Nos. 545-46
28 2/77
11/3/77

Sergeant G. Kennell
Papers relating reporting
upon the utter incapacity
of — for the post of Salug
Museum, ordered to be com-
municated to the Military
Dept with a view to his
being remanded to his
corps.

W. P. P.