To

G. D. Wybrow Esquire
Superintending Engineer
First Circle.

Thro

C. J. Ussher Esquire
Executive Engineer
Godavari Eastern Division

A. A. Moss Esquire
Assistant Engineer
Head Works Sub Division

D. Ramanna Naidugaru
Assistant Superintendent

Most Honored Sir

I most respectfully and humbly beg your honor to transmit the enclosed memorial to the Government for its favorable consideration with your kind recommendation.

I beg to remain
Most honored Sir
Your most obedient Servant

Dowlaishweram
May 1893

Assistant Coxswain

READ W. Nº
14 JUN. 1893
SUB-DIV.

To

The Secretary to the Government
of Madras Public Works Department

A humble memorial of Majji. Venkataraya
ancient laiscar of the Godavari Eastern Du
on whom notice has been served under G. O
No 840 dated 28-3-93 stating that his Service
will be dispensed with at the expiration of three
months from the date of notice.

Most Honored Sir,

With due deference and
profound submission the memorialist
prays the Government that the following
few lines may be taken into its kind
consideration.

1. The first thing that the memorialist would
bring to the notice of the Government is, that
no such rule has ever been enforced in the
British Government with retrospective effect
except that the rule has been brought into
operation from the date of its origin.
In the case of Government's humble memo-
-rialist, his services being under twenty years
are ordered to be dispensed with as per G. O
No 840, Dt 28-3-93. Evidently the rule origi-
-nated in the aforesaid G. O. of 31 March 1893
has affected the services of Government's poor

Servant

servants of 20 years standing in the de-
-partment. The object of the Government
in doing so, is perhaps to preserve economy with-
-out undergoing expenses for affording
pensions to those that survived after com-
-pleting 30 years service overcoming innume-
-rable hardships & accidents to limbs (irrespective
of natural and domestic life struggles) in the
due performance of the duties of ancient lascars
who are required:—

(a) Sometimes to swim with express letters one or two branches of the river God ward at nights during flood time in cases of emergency.

(b) To convey tappals regularly by means of a small nawa or row boat, even when the river is in its highest flood and all traffic by Baha-dari boats or dhonies is altogether stopped for fear of getting them drowned.

(c) To put ancient planks for preserving water for second crop cultivation, over the ancient crest when 1' to 2' of water is passing over it and when it is too slippery to pass, owing to the growth of moss over it (one slide or slip of foot makes a man fall down and smash his head into pieces by carrying him along the whirling current below the ancient; none but experienced men who have been accustomed can put ancient planks to prevent water being wasted)

(d) To work with the gearings of under sluices in some parts of the year both day and night according to the state of water in the river (some-times in working the gearings during the high freshes putting some ancient planks over the parapet walls of the under sluices there is every chance of men being slipped into the water above under sluices by accident not knowing the position of the ancient planks placed beneath their feet owing to there being 3' or 4' of water over the parapet walls, none but ex-perienced lascars can either raise or lower shutters of the under sluices at Dowlaishwaram Bobbarlanka & Vijeshwaram.)

(e) To carry large-aprons stones from one place to another and to do such other difficult works during the whole scorching day of the working (summer) season notwithstanding wading at nights materials (lime & Surki) tools, the river embankments and bunkas (infested with cobras) during the times of flood and in the rainy season. What daily laborers or temporary men can be entrusted with the above works of responsibility and what reliance can officers and subordinates keep on them and what will be the punishment in case of neglect of duty on

on their (daily laborer's) part? The memorialists would bring to the special notice of the Govern-ment the differences between servants who are bound by service reckonable towards pension and others who have no such binding.

(f) To accompany the Delta Superintendent attached to the Head-Works sub Dn for river survey work in surveying banks and sand-shoals four miles below and four miles above the four branches of the anicut bearing scientific instruments in the scorching sun over them and burning sands beneath their feet (if a levelling box is slipped down the head of a lascar for his either getting too much fatigued by sun-stroke or, by accident them therewith end the lascars services and for fear of this he is more care-ful towards the instrument than to his own life, but please consider the case of a daily laborer or a temporary servant chargeable to work, nothing can be done but confiscating the wages of the laborer viz as 3 or 4 or whatever he gets for that day)

(g) To row boats measuring distances in the river & taking soundings after field work of river-chart survey is over. (stone) but experienced lascars can be employed in measuring distances over water.)

(2) Besides the duties enumerated from (a) to (g) under para 1 which form the ordinary daily work of ancut lascars the following extraordinary works have been undertaken by them.

(a) During the working season of May 1889 a big hole was found beneath the Head-Regulator-ent. officers and subordinates attempted to penetrate into it and inspect the bottom of it but did not succeed not because the hole was not sufficiently large to hold men, but because it was too dark and heat was very immense, there was not good air to breathe in, light was created by reflection of large glasses into the hole. no daily laborer ventured to enter into the hole At this time, the ancut lascars were ordered to enter into the hole and to fill it up from it's very bottom. They did the work very satisfact-orily and won the favor of the Superintending the Executive & the Assistant Engineers of the time to whom the Government may make reference and obtain the truth of the matter as they form the eyewitnesses of the facts.

(b) During the time of the construction of Bolbedi-tanka Head-Sluices in 1879-80 Dowlaishweram Head-Lock in 1886-87 and Bijadevi tanka Head-Lock in 1889-90 and Vijaiswaram Head-Lock in 1891-92 daily laborers did not offer themselves to delve into the wells & sunk and for pile driving work. Though it was

a very difficult task especially diving into wells and sinking them yet the ancient Lascars were considered as so many giants that can undertake the work & accordingly it was got done by them W.B. Devinton Esqr will bear testimony to the hazardous work played by ancient Lascars when the Bolbelankha Head-Sluices were washed away in the year 1878. A reference to J. H. Somers Exe Esqr the present Exe. Engineer in the Rushikulia Dn will clear the doubts of Government if any, in the case of work done by them to Dowlaishweram Hd-Lock.

(3) Both the above facts stated in (a) and (b) under para 2 will, they believe convince the Govt in so far that they have undertaken the above works even at the risk of their lives such has been the hard labor with which they have been entrusted and such is the ultimate benefit they derived of it viz the reduction of their posts into posts chargeable to work which carry as pensions with them.

(4) Fully anticipating that they will enjoy the golden rule of the British Govt and get pensions in their old age some of the Lascars who have had landed property have disposed it of, lest they may be transferred to some other places far off their native land, they also disposed of their cattle which most of them had being unable to look after them while attending to the onerous duties of their public service both day and night. If they intend to return to their former profession, viz cultivating their land they are now destitute of both land and cattle. When they are reduced to such ~~poor~~ land a poor state of life as this, they have been reduced to work establishment to their great misfortune.

(5) Had this reduction been effected when the rail way work was commenced on the Godavari district, the memorialist would have at least earned six from 4 to 6 annas a day (for only day time & not for night work). Seeing that local rates of wages of daily laborers in force are greater than what he gets viz Rs a day (ie) Rs a month both for day and night work and finding that the ancient Lascars in the Kristna district draw Rs 6, 7 & 8 per mensem the Government's poor memorialist contemplated of sending a memorial to the Government for raising his salary to the corresponding grade of local rates but believing that the scale of rates established

once for all will noh be revised without his undergoing much trouble he did not submit the memorial. He sincerely deeply regrets for the necessity of his having had to present this memorial to keep him even in the same state he has been in, for the last 20 years. He most submissively requests the Government to contrast the differences between Labourers whose wages are charged to works by day and servants who are bound (in fact fettered) by service binding.

(6) The Government may then question why the General advantages opened to daily Labourers may not now be enjoyed by the permanent ancient Lascars as they have now been reduced to work establishment. for this they have to reply that their loyal adherence to the department for the last 20 years selling up their land and cattle receiving small salaries viz Rs 6 per mensem for both day and night work would not keep them justified receiving three months notices in spite of their hard labors in connection with river business even at the risk of their lives as enumerated in the foregoing paras.

7 Even to think of the economy of Government alluded to in the sentence above (a) under para 1 in which Government servants have some interest they believe

is no economy when Government und
to pay temporary men both for day a
work, for it amounts to more than
principal of the amount to be aff
-ded for pensions as well as interest o

(8) All the reverence to government se
if any is due to it to bestowing pension
its loyal servants in their dotta
and without it it is all the same w
whom-so-ever the appointment rests.

(9) In conclusion the Government's hum
and poor servants living on such a
small pay of Rs 5 per mensem, h
spent almost the prime of his life in
the discharge of public duties begs to kno
if he should be betrayed unprotected
the Government in his old age.

Howlaishwar
28th May 1893

Ancient Lascar.