

To

G. D. Mykrow Esquire
Superintending Engineer
1st Circle

/Stho/

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C. J. Asher Esquire
Executive Engineer
Godavari Eastern Division

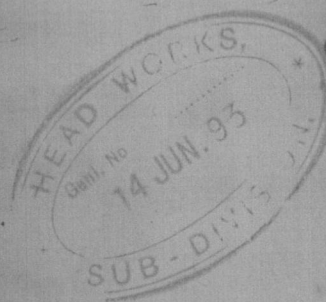
M
31-5-93

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

M R S D. Ramanna Chaidiger
Chief Superintendent

Most honored Sir

I most respectfully and humbly
beg your honor to transmit the
enclosed memorial to the
Government for its favorable
Consideration



M
14-6-93

Consideration with your kind
recommendation

I beg to remain

Most honored Sir

Your most obedient Servant

Dowlaiswaram

28th May 1893

Mark of Kanadu Ramudu +
Ancient Cascar

To

The Secretary to the Government
of Madras Public Works Department

Humble memorial of Kanadu Ramudu
ancient Cascar of the Godavary Eastern
Division on whom notice has been
served under G. O. No 840 dated
28-3-93 stating that his services
will be dispensed with at the ex-
piration 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.

The first thing that the memorialist
would bring to the notice of the Government
is that no new rule has ever been enforced
in the British Government with retrospec-
tive effect, except that the rule has been
brought into operation from the date of
its origin. In the case of Government's
humble memorialist his services

being

being under twenty years are ordered to be dispensed with as per G.O. No 840 dated 23-3-93. Evidently the rule originated in the aforesaid G.O. of March 1893 has affected the services of Government's poor servants of 20 years standing in the department. The object of the Government in doing so, is perhaps to preserve economy without under-going expenses for affording pensions to those that survived after completing 30 years service overcoming innumerable hardships & accidents to him (irrespective of natural and domestic life struggles) in the due performance of the duties of ancient laborers who are required:—

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

(b) To convey tappals regularly by means

means of a small nava or row boat even when the river is in its highest flood and all traffic by Rahadary boats or dhonis is altogether stopped for fear of getting them drowned.

(c) To put ancient planks, for preservation of water for second crop cultivation over the ancient crest when it is of water is passing over it and when it is too slippery to pass owing to growth of moss over it (one slide or slip of foot makes a man fall down and smash his head in 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 washed away.

(d) To work with the gearings of sluices in some parts of the year both day and night according to the state of water in the river (sometimes working the gearings during the high freshes putting some ancient planks over

over the parapet walls of the undersluices there is every chance of men being slipped into the water above undersluices by accidents 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 experienced lascars can either raise or lower shutters of the undersluices at Dowlaishuwarum Boleherlanka & Vigeshuwarum.)

(L) To carry large-apron stones from one place to another and to do such other difficult works during the whole scorching day of the working (summer) season notwithstanding watching at night materials (lime & surki) tools, the river embankments and lankas (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 their (daily laborers) part? The minister would bring to the special notice of the Government the differences between servants who are bound by service reckons towards pension and others who have no such binding.

(F) To accompany the Delta Superintendent attached to the Head works-Sub-Division for river survey work in surveying lankas and sand-shoals four miles below and four miles above the four branches of the ancient bearing scientific instruments in the scorching sun over them and burning sand 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 then there will end the lascars' services and for fear of this he is more careful 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 ancient 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 Maddur ancient. Officers and subordi-
nates 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

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 ancient lascars were ordered to enter into the hole and to fill it up from its very bottom.

They did the work very satisfactorily 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 fact.

(b) During the time of the construction of Bobberlanka Head-locks in 1879-80

Dowlaisheram Head-locks in 1886-87,

Bobberlanka Head-locks in 1889-90

and Vigairam Head-locks in 1891-92,

daily laborers did not offer themselves to dive 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

work & accordingly it was got done by them
M. B. Dainton Esquire will bear testimony
to the hazardous work played by ancient
lascars when the *Isobelle Blanka* & *St. Lucia*
were washed away in the year 1878. A
reference to J. H. Somers Esq Esquire
the present Esq. Engineer in the Rush-
kulia Division will clear the doubts
of Govt. if any, in the case of work
done by them to Dowlaishwaram & 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 under-
taken 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 no pensions with them.

(4) ^{Fully} ~~The~~ 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 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 railway work was com-
menced in the Godavary District,
the memorialist would have at
least earned viz from 4 to 6 annas
a day (for only day time & not for
night

night work) seeing that local rates of wages of daily laborers in force are greater than what he gets ~~say Rs~~ a day ~~say Rs~~ for a month both for day and night work and finding that the ancient laborers in the Krishna District draw Rs 6, 7 & 8 per mensem, the Govt. pro-memorialist contemplated of sending a memorial to the Govt. for raising his salary to the corresponding grade of local rates but believing that the scale of rates established once for all will not be revised without his undergoing much trouble he did not submit the memorial. He now very 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 Govt. to contrast the differences between laborers whose wages are charged to works by day and servants who are bound

bound (in fact fettered) by service binding.

(6) The Government may then question why the several advantages opened to daily laborers may not now be enjoyed by the permanent ancient lease-holders 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 say Rs 5 & 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 ~~Sentences~~ ^{Sentences}

entire above (a) under para 1 in which
Government's servants have been
Some interest they believe it is no economy
when Govt undertake to pay temporary
men both for day & night work for it
amounts to more than the principal
of the amount to be afforded for pensions
as well as interest on it.



(8) All the reverence to Government
Service if any is due to its bestowing
pension to its loyal servants in their old age
and without it, it is all the same with
whomsoever the appointment rests.

(9) In conclusion the Government's
humble and poor servant living on such
a small pay of Rs 6 per mensem who
spent almost the prime of his life in
the discharge of public duties begs to know
if he should be betrayed unprotected
by the Government in his old age.

D. S. Chakravartty } Mark of Kanadu Ramudu
28-5-1893 } Assistant Engineer

Salary - Rs 6
Service - 7-5