

To

G. D. Mybrun Esq

Superintending Engineer, 1st circle

(Also) C. J. Dasher Esq

Executive Engineer, Godavari & Eastern Div

H. A. Frost Esquire

Asst Engineer, Headworks Sub Division

M. D. Ramaniakhaidugar

Asst Superintendent.

Most Honored Sir.

I most respectfully and humbly
beg your honor to transmit the enclosed Memorial
to the Government for its favourable consider-
ation, with your kind recommendations.

I beg to remain

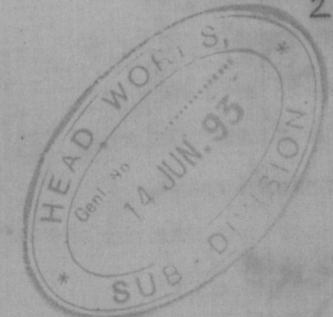
Most Honored Sir.

Dowlaiswaram.

28-5-1893

Your Most Obedt. Servant.

Mark of Poddooka. Nagadu +
Asst Engineer.



H. M.
14.6.93

To

The Secretary to the Government
of Madras Public Works Department.

Humble Memorial of Poddooka. Nagadu ancient
lascar of the Godavari Eastern Division on whom notice
has been served under G.O. No 84 dated 28-3-93,
stating that ^{this} services 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 new 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 Memorialist his
services being under twenty years are ordered to be
dispensed with as per G.O. No 840 dated 28-3-93.
Evidently the rule originated in the aforesaid G.O. of
March 1893 has effected the services of Government's
poor servants of 20 years standing in the Depart-
ment. The object of the Government in doing

so, is perhaps to preserve economy without undergoing expenses for affording pensions to those that survived after completing 30 years service overcoming innumerable hardships & accidents to lives (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 Godavari at nights during flood time in cases of emergency.
- (b) To convey topicals regularly by means of a small nava or row boat, even when the river is in its highest flood and all traffic by Rahadari boats or dhonis is altogether stopped for fear of getting them drowned.
- (c) To put ancient planks, for preserving water for sown 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 crest; none but experienced men who have been accustomed can put ancient planks to prevent water being wasted.)
- (d) To work with the gearings of undersluices in some parts of the year both day and night according to the state of water in the river (sometimes in working the gearings during the high freshes

putting some ancient planks over the parapet walls of the undersluices thus is every chance of men being slipped into the water above undersluices by accident. Not knowing the positions 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 Doolai shewaram, Bobber-laukas & Vingsweram.)

- (e) To carry large-slab 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 nights materials (lime & surki) torts, the river embankments and lauikas (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 Memorialist would bring to the special notice of the Government, 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 Division for river survey

working surveying larks and sand-shoals four
miles below and four miles above the four branches
of the ancient bearing scientific instruments in the
searching sun over them and burning sand beneath
their feet (if a travelling box is slipped down the head
of a lascar for his either getting too much fatigued
by sun-stroke or, by accident then therewith and
the lascar's services and for fear of this he is more
careful towards the instrument than to his own
life, but please consider the care of daily laborers
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. (None 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 high hole
was found beneath the bladder ancient.

Officers and Subordinates attempted to penetrate
into

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
so immense, there was not good air
breathing; light was created by reflection
of large glasses into the hole; No daily
labors ventured to enter into the hole.
this time, the ancient lascars were ordered
to enter into the hole and to fill it up from
very bottom. They did the work very satis-
factorily and won the favor of the Super-
tending, the Executive Engineer & the Assistant
Engineers of the time to whom the Govt. may
reference and obtain the truth of the matter
they form the eyewitnesses of the fact.

(b) During the time of the construction of Bobber
laucka Head Sluice in 1879-80, Doolaiska
Head-Loock in 1886-87, Bobberlaucka Head-Loock
in 1889-90,

and the Yezzerawee Head-locks in 1891-92, daily
labours 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 under-
take the work & accordingly it was got done by
them. W. B. Desautels Esq. will bear testimony
to the hazardous work played by ancient lascars
when the Bobberlaucka Head-slaves were washed
away in the year 1879. A reference to J. F. Somers
Esq. the present Executive Engineer of Ruskkulio
Division will clear the doubts of Govt., if any, in
the case of work done by them to Doolishurom & the locks.

(3) Both the above facts stated in (a) and (b) under
para 2, will they believe, convince the Government
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 no pension 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 place far
off their native land; they also dispose 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 & night.
If they intend to return to their former profes-
sion, viz, cultivating their land they are now
destitute of both land & cattle. Where 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 commenced in the Godavari District, the Memorialist would have at least earned viz 4 to 5 annas a day (for only day times & not for night work) seeing that local rates of wages of daily laborers in force are greater than what he gets viz Rs. 1 a day (i.e. Rs. 10 for a month both for day and night work and finding that the Amiceblars in the Distra District draw Rs. 6, 7 & 8 per mensem, the Government's poor 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 now submissively requests

the Govt. to contrast the differences between laborers 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 several advantages opened to daily laborers may not now be enjoyed by the permanent amiceblars 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. 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 section above (a) under para 1 in which Govt. servants have some interest they



believe it is no economy when Government undertakes to pay ten per cent 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 the Government's humble service of any is due to its bestowing pension to its loyal servants in their dotage & without it, it is all the same with whom - so ever 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.

Gowlaishwaram } Mark of Poddooka. Nagadu T
28th May 1893 } Ancient Lascar.

Salary Rs 6

Grants 14-8

to be submitted