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G. D. Hybrow Esquire
Superintending Engineer
1st circle

(Thro) C. J. Escher Esquire
Executive Engineer

Soaring Eastern Division

H. A. Moss Esq

Asst Engineer

Head works Sub Division

M. D. Ramanaiah Naidu Esq
Ancient Superintendent

Most Honored sir

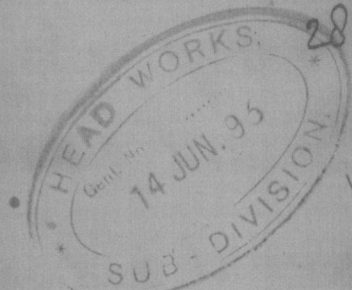
I most respectfully & humbly beg
your honor to transmit the enclosed Memorial
to the Government for its favourable
consideration, with your kind recommendation.

I beg to remain

Most Honored sir

Your most obedient Servant
M. D. Ramanaiah Naidu
Ancient Lascar.

Dowlaiswaram }
28th May 1893



M. D.
14.6.93

To
The Secretary to the Government of
Madras Public Works Department.

Humble Memorial of Velpoov. Subba Rao,
anicut labourer of the Godavary Eastern Division
on whom notice has been served under G.O. No 840
dated 28-3-93, stating that ^{his} ~~their~~ services will
be dispensed with at the expiration of three months
from the date of notice.

Most Honored Sir

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

I. The first thing that the Memorialist could 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

in the aforesaid G.O. of March 1893 has affected the services of Government's poor servants of twenty years standing in the department. 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 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 of a small kawa or row boat, even when the river is in its highest flood and all traffic by Pakadari 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 gear both day and night according to the state of water in the river (sometimes in working the gearings during the high fresher 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 their being 3' or 4' of water over the parapet walls; none but experienced laborers can either raise or lower shutters of the under sluices at Dowlaicheram, Bobber-lanka & Vijayaram).

- (e). 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)

(limo & surki) tools, the river embankment and
laukas (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 memorialists 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.

(8) To accompany the Delta Superintendent attached
to the Head works Sub Division for river survey work
in surveying laukas 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 laukas for his either getting too much
fatigued by sun-stroke or, by accident then
therewith end the laukas services and for fear of

laukas for his either getting too much fatigued
by sun-stroke or, by accident then therewith
end the laukas services and for fear of this he is
more careful towards the instrument than to his
own life, but please consider the care 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.)

(9) To row boats measuring distances in the river & taking
soundings after field work of river-chart survey is
over. (None but experienced laukas can be employed
in measuring distances over water.)

2 Besides the duties enumerated from (a) to (9) under
para 1, which form the ordinary daily work of ancient
laukas the following extraordinary works have been
undertaken by them.

(a) During the working season of May 1889 a big hole
was found beneath the elbadder ancient. 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 laborers 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.

(6) During the time of the construction of Bobberlaunka Head-Sluices in 1879-80, Dowlaisheram Head-Loch in 1886-87, Bobberlaunka Head-Loch in 1889-90 and Vizianwaram Head-Loch 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 & accordingly it was got done by them.

W. B. Durinton Esquire will bear testimony to the hazardous work played by ancient lascars when the Bobberlaunka Head sluices were washed away in the year 1879.

A. reference to J. F. Somers Esquire the present Executive Engineer in the Rushkulia Division will clear the doubts of Government if any, in the case of work done by them to Dowlaisheram Head-Loch.

(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 labours 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 anticipating that they will enjoy the golden rule of the British Government 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 after

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 commenced in the Godavery District, the Memorialist would have at least earned viz 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. ~~1~~ ¹/₂ a day (i.e.) Rs. ¹/₂ a month both for day & night work and finding that the Amicut laborers in the Krishna District draw Rs. 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

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 Government to Contract the differences between laborers whose wages are charged to work by day and servants who are bound (in fact fettered) by service binding.

- (6) The Government may then question why the several advantages offered to daily laborers may not now be enjoyed by the permanent Amicut laborers 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



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 under para 1 in which Government's servants have some interest, they believe it is no economy when Government undertakes 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's services if any is due to its bestowing pension to its loyal servants; in their dotage & without it, it is all the same with whomsoever the appointment rests.

(9) In conclusion the Govt'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.

Soulais huceron
28th May 1899

Thank of
Velpoori. Subbarao &
Anicutlasean

Salary - 6
service - 13-0-

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Secretary to the Government