

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. <i>683</i>	<u>Press</u> <u>Mis.</u>
Dated <i>27-8-1887</i>	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

21/11/30

No. 683.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, under date the 27th August 1857.

* From Lieutenant McNEILL, 15th Regiment M. N. I.; to Captain HAY, Military Secretary.

My dear Sir,

Having heard that the Sepoys, lately disbanded at Tanjore had volunteered their services for employment in Bengal against the mutineers, I availed myself of the opportunity offered of talking to some of them who passed while I was inspecting a bridge in the immediate vicinity of Tanjore; and entering into conversation walked with them to the Fort. After some preliminary talk I asked if they were ready to go at once to Bengal to fight for the Sircar? They looked at me in utter amazement. I referred to their voluntary offer to serve which they had just made to the Government. They professed total ignorance of any such offer, but said they lately had petitioned the Sircar to "give them back their rice" which I need hardly tell you means simply to restore their former means of living. After much further talk with them it was impossible but to perceive that they knew nothing of any Volunteer on their part to serve the Government in Bengal or elsewhere, but that they did think they had petitioned for the restoration of the old state of things in Tanjore. Before parting I asked them "but will you go to Bengal and fight for the Sircar"? to which their spokesman merely replied "we do not eat the Sircar's salt" the tone and manner implying decided negation.

In fact they totally ignored having volunteered their services and expressed a decided opposition to moving from their native place, their hopes and wishes extending only to the restoration of the Native Raj, and their own re-employment under it. Under existing circumstances I think it my duty to acquaint the Governor of the ignorance in which these Sepoys were kept as to the real purport of what they signed and you will oblige me by informing His Lordship of the conversation I had with them.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

22nd August 1857.

(Signed) D. A. McNEILL, Lieut.,

15th Regiment M. N. I.

The Right Honorable the Governor having received a letter from Lieut. McNEILL, of the 15th M. N. I., lately Executive Engineer in Tanjore, communicating the substance of a conversation which he had with some of the disbanded Sepoys of the late Rajah on the subject of their having volunteered their services for employment in Bengal, the Government resolve to forward a copy of that communication to the Commissioner of Tanjore for any remarks he may have to make on the general subject with reference to his letter of the 6th Instant No. 205.

(True Extract and Copy.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Commissioner of Tanjore.

I am anxious that
this letter from Lt Col
Rich of the 15th M. H. I.
late of British Regt. the
Anglo should be recorded
with the proceedings of
Govt in the subject of
the offer of the late Regt.
troops to serve in
Bengal. ~~the~~

St. McKim's letter had
I sent to Mr. Phelps
for my remarks he
may have made.

Knox.

Aug 26/57.

My dear Sir
Having heard that
the Sepoy lately disbanded
at Bangalore, would volunteer
their services for employment
in Bengal against the
Mutineers, I seized myself
of the opportunity offered
of talking to some of them
who passed while I was
inspecting a bridge in
the immediate vicinity
of Bangalore, and entering
into conversation walked
with them to the Hotel - the
more preliminary talk
I asked if they were ready
to go at once to Bengal
to fight for the Sircar? They
looked at me in utter
amazement & refused!

their voluntary offer to
serve which they had
first made to the Govt.
They proposed to be engaged
by any such offer, but said
they lately had petitioned
the Secy to give them
back their rice which
I need hardly tell you
occurs simply to restore
their former means of
living. After much further
talk with them it was
impossible to persuade
that they were willing
of any volunteer on their
part to serve the Govt.
in Bengal or elsewhere
but that they did think
they had petitioned for
the restoration of the old
state of things in Tanjore.
Before parting I asked them
"But will you go to Bengal
and fight for the Secy?"
to which their spokesman
merely replied "We do not
eat the Secy's salt" the
tone and manner implying
decided negation.
In fact they totally ignore
having volunteered their
services and expressed a
decided opposition to having
their native plan
from their wishes
their hopes and wishes
extending only to the
restoration of the native
Raj, and their own
reemployment under it.

Under existing circumstances
I think it my duty to
acquaint the Governor of
the ignorance in which
these boys were brought to
the real purport of what
they signed and for all
oblige me to inform him
of the substance of the conversation
I had with them.

I am dear Sir
Yrs faithfully
Aug^{22nd}



15th Reg^t - Mass

To Captain Wagon
Military Sec^y

Political Dept.

No 183

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
held on date 27th August 1857

The R. H. the Gover.
-nor having received a
letter ~~communication~~ from Lieut
H. C. Baill of the 10th R. I.
late Executive Engineer
in Tanjore, communica-
-ting the substance of
a conversation which he
had with some of the
disbanded Sepoys of the
late Rajah on the sub-
-ject of their having
volunteered their ser-
-vices for employment
in Bengal, the Govd.
resolves to forward a
copy of that commu-
-nication to the ^{Govt.} Acting
-Commissioner.
President of Tanjore for
any remarks he may
have

have to make ^{on the same} ~~thereon~~,
subject
with reference to his
letter of the 17th Instant
No. 205.

[Signature]

Commissioner,
to the ~~Dating President~~
of Tangora with
copy of letter to C. Hillis } Dispt. 27th
letter _____