

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
19th November 1869.

Read the following papers:—

No. 122. From the Collector of Kurnool, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Kurnool, 16th October 1869, No. 366.

I have the honour to bring to the notice of Government that a person, named Ramasawmy, died of Diarrhoea on the 29th September, in the Civil Dispensary here, leaving a daughter, aged nine years, unprovided for.

2. It appears that Ramasawmy was one of a gang of coolies engaged for work in the Upper Godavery. He was sixty-four years of age, and physically weak, and therefore would have been useless as a cooly had he lived to reach the Godavery works.

3. I think it necessary to bring this to notice as it is probable that the only object which could have induced this old man to have been taken on the roll of coolies was the desire of the Agent to increase the number of coolies supplied, and that the Protector of Emigrants must have been deceived, when he examined the coolies brought before him. It is very necessary that when coolies have to be sent so great a distance that great care should be used to prevent those that are old and weak from being enrolled by agents.

4. I have written to the Collector of Trichinopoly regarding the disposal of the child, and have, in the meantime, endeavoured to find some respectable person to look after her till I hear from Trichinopoly.

No. 123. From the Collector of Kurnool, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Kurnool, 18th October 1869, No. 373.

I had the honour on the 16th instant, in my letter No. 366, to address you on the subject of coolies being supplied to the Upper Godavery. I have now the honour to forward, for the information of Government, a telegram from Murugasa Pillay, Hyderabad, to S. Abraham, Arconum, which apparently refers to his being short of funds to pay coolies in transports, and then says "forty people died on the way."

The telegram was received at Arconum by a man who signs himself Joseph, and was sent in a letter—the copy of which I forward—to Abraham, telling the latter to keep the matter quiet, and that if delay is made other people (meaning I suppose coolies) would be lost, (that is, would not be willing to go as coolies).

2. I have just heard from Abraham to say he is again starting from Arconum with 100 coolies for Kurnool, and will come and see me after he has despatched them across the Tungabudra.

3. I have felt it my duty to bring these circumstances to the notice of Government, for there appears to me to be a recklessness about the whole proceedings, both as regards supply of batta to the coolies, and as regards their life; for somewhere near Hyderabad forty died, and one aged sixty-four, as I reported before, died in Kurnool, leaving a daughter aged about nine years.

4. When detachments of troops pass through my district or even remount horses, I always get a previous notice, telling me where the halts will be, and the supplies necessary. Surely where such large bodies of coolies travel some prior arrangements ought to be made for their maintenance and health. It is not always

Cont. of 1869 India.

PUBLIC.

To

THE COLLECTOR OF NORTH ARCOT.

Ac., Ac., Ac.

Dated November, 19th.

Recd.

Ind.

G. O., 19th November 1869, No. 1585.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 122—125.

Directing the Collector of North Arcot to inquire with the least possible delay, into the manner in which coolies for the Godavery works have been recruited by the individuals named Abraham and Joseph, in the North Arcot District.

Arrest District.

2. Should the provisions of Act V of 1846
~~not have been observed,~~
~~the Magistrate will take~~
the necessary steps for
enforcing the penalties
provided by law for it.
legal recruiting.

14/12

To the Collector of M. District.

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~~Signature~~

