M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O.-No. 1585 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated November 22, 1859.

12
13

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Ordering an explanation from the Zillah Surgeon of Vizagapatam through the Director general of the Medical Department, of his grounds for refusing a certificate to S. Venkata Raundas, Tahsildar of Gol Kondah.

No. 12. Read the following letter from C. W. READE, Esq., Collector and Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 7th September 1859, No. 853.

Under the existing rules it is out of the power of the head of an office to procure a pension for any Native subordinate unless backed by a Medical Certificate of incapacity for further duty, but it seems to me that a Medical officer is not always competent to form a judgment on this point in relation to a man's capacity for the proper conduct of his duties.

2. There may be cases where no bodily infirmity is outwardly visible or discoverable and there may exist imbecility of intellect and puerility of character which alone developes itself where the exercise of the judgment and the mental energies are called forth. These infirmities cannot possibly be known on a mere cursory examination by a Medical officer who has no means of testing them, but they may exist nevertheless, and to that extent which may seriously damage important interests.

3. A case in point I desire to bring before Government leaving it for their decision. It is that of S. Venkata Rámdás, the Tahsíldár of Golkondah. In last year I had occasion to be dissatisfied with this officer, but having little personal experience of him I addressed both Captain Owen and Mr. Pelly my Assistants, and I enclose for the information of Government the replies of those officers which I think clearly demonstrates the incompetency of the Tahsíldár. I have also had many occasions to comment on his dilatoriness and want of energy, and in a part of the country like Golkondah it is essential that the head of the táluq should be both young and active. S. Venkata Rámdás is nearly 60 years of age, his hand so shakes that he cannot write legibly, and it is with difficulty he can even sign his name; I have tried him and beg to enclose a specimen of his caligraphy.

4. Being desirous of getting the services of a more efficient officer in the Golkondah táluq I wished to pension the Tahsildar, but the Zillah Surgeon declines to give him the required certificate on the grounds stated; and hence my difficulty, and the reason I am necessitated to apply for the orders of Government in respect to this officer. He has been found wanting on many occasions, and for long has been considered unfit by his immediate European superiors. I have also myself had practical evidence of his want of energy both bodily and mental and altogether I consider him a very unfit person for the charge he holds. He has a nervous tremor in his hand which almost disables him from putting pen to paper, and I cannot think it right any longer to retain Venkata Rámdás in his present post.

5. To degrade him to an inferior situation would not be a palatable arrangement or agreeable to his own feelings, and therefore I solicit of Government that the Tahsíldár may be permitted to retire on the pension to which he may be entitled under the rules. I believe this is one-third of his present salary, and I am satisfied that in submitting the proposal I am doing no injustice to the individual, while those higher interets, affecting the Government and the people will thus be secured.

6. I await the orders of Government for my guidance.

No. 13. ORDER THEREON, 22d November 1859, No. 1585.

Ordered that a copy of this letter be transmitted to the Director General of the Medical Department who will obtain from the Zillah Surgeon of Vizagapatam, for the information of Government, an explanation of his grounds for refusing a certificate to S. Venkata Rámdás, Tahsíldár of Golkondah, who is reported by the Collector to be nearly sixty years of age, and so infirm as to be scarcely able even to sign his name.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

No 853

Vizagapatam Collector & Govt Agent's Office 7th September 1859

From

C. W. Reade Esqre
Collector and Agent to the Govr
Vizagapatam

To

T. Pycroft Esqre
Chief Secretary to Govt
Fort St George

Sir

Under the existing Rules it is out of the power of the Head of an Office to procure a pension for any native subordinate unless backed by a Medical Certificate of incapacity for further duty, but it seems to me that a Medical Officer is not always competent to form a judgment on this point in relation to a man's capacity for the proper conduct of his duties.

2. There may be cases where no bodily infirmity is outwardly visible or discoverable and there may exist imbecility of intellect and puerility of character which alone developes itself where the exercise of the judgment and the mental energies are called for th- These

infirmities

infirmities cannot possibly be known on a mere cursory examination by a Medical Officer who has no means of testing them, but they may exist nevertheless, and to that extent which may seriously damage important interests.

3. A case in point I desire to bring before Government leaving it for their decision. It is that of S. Vencatramoss. the Tahsildar of Golgondah. In last year I had occasion to be dissatisfied with this Officer, but having little personal experience of him I addressed both Captn Owen and Mr Pelly my Assistants, and I enclose for the information of Government the replies of these Officers which I think clearly demonstrates the incompetency of the Tahsildar. I have also had many occasions to comment on his dilatoriness and want of energy, and in a part of the country like Golgondah it is essential that the Head of the Talook should be both young and active. S Vencatramdoss is nearly 60 years of age, his hand so shakes that he

cannot write legibly, and it is with difficulty he can even sign his name. I have tried him and beg to enclose a specimen of his caligraphy.

4. Being desirous of getting the services of a more efficient Officer in the Golgondah Talook I wished to pension the Tahsildar, but the Killah Surgeon declines to give him the required certificate on the grounds stated; and hence my difficulty, and the reason I am necessitated to apply for the orders of Government in respect to this Officer. He has been found wanting on many occasions, and for long has been considered unfit by his immediate European superiors. I have also myself had practical evidence of his want of energy both bodily and mental and altogether I consider him a very unfit person for the charge he holds. He has a nervous tremor in his hand which almost disables him from putting pen to paper, and I cannot think it right any longer to retain Vencatramdoss in

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6 I await the orders of Government for my guidance and

have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Obed.t Servant

Coll.r & Agent to the Gov.r

No. 52

Nursipatam 12th April 1858

To

C. W. Reade Esquire
Agent to the Governor

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 87 dated 9th March 1858, I have the honor to state, that the present head of Police of the Golcondah Talook, is, from mental incapacity, decidedly incompetent to perform the various duties with which he is entrusted, and to maintain his authority over the Subordinates of his Establishment.

I have &ca &ca

(Signed) W. G. Owen Captain
Comd. Golcondah Seby. Corps

Vizagapatam Princl. Asstt Magistrates Office 20th April 1858.

From

C. R. Pelly Esquire
Acg. Princl. Asstt to the agent to the Govr.

To

C. W. Reade Esquire
Agent to the Governor
Vizianagrum

From Director Genl. of Med. Depart.

No. 138.

1857

Revenue Departt.

Ext. Mins. of Consultn. 30 Novr. No. 1700

From the Collector of Vizagapatam

To the Chief Secy. Fort St. George

Dated 7th Octr. } 1857
Recd. 16th do.

No. 803

Enclosure 2

No. 1247/3-

No. 1585

Ordered that a copy of this letter be transmitted to the ...

No. 1585, 22d November

Sir,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt on the 10th inst of this month of your communication No 90 under date 10th March requesting me to state my opinion as to the fitness of the Head of Police of Golgondah for the duties of his present post.

2. During the period that the Golgondah Taluk was under my management prior to the Jamabundee, I was not satisfied with the manner in which the police duties were discharged, the proceedings of the Head of Police more especially in the cases of Gang robbery which occurred at Bolarum and Polavarum indicated a want of firmness throughout, and though the delinquents in the above cases have with one exception been arrested, this is to be attributed wholly to the exertions of the Acting Moonsiff of Cuspa & Golgondah and Sibbundies

3. Golgondah is as you are aware a Hill Taluk, many of the villages are difficult of access, old feuds exist between the Moorasadars, and it requires the presence of an active and energetic Head of Police more perhaps than any other. The present man whom I frequently saw during the Jamabundy is decrepid and as far as I could ascertain, the business of the Taluk is in reality performed by one Lunka Seshiah.

4. There is no unusual amount of crime in this Taluk, but this I attribute mainly to the prosperous condition of the Ryots and lower classes generally arising from the present highly remunerative prices and demand for labor and in some degree also to the presence of the Sibbundies in the vicinity of the Hills which tends to check turbulently inclined Moorasadars and not to the efficiency of the Head of Police and whatever he may have been formerly.

I am of opinion that his present qualifications as a Revenue and Police Officer are very much on a par and that he owes his present position rather to his length of service in this Taluk than to any particular aptitude for the discharge of the duties of a Head of Police.

5. Both the management of the Taluk and records connected with it have passed out of my jurisdiction and with the exception of the breaking of the Bund of the Tungaty Tank, I am unable to call to mind any specific instance of incompetency as a Revenue Officer but consider that his retiring from active service will be for his own ultimate advantage and credit, as well as for the good of the Taluk, as I am of opinion that his general incompetency for the discharge of his duties will become gradually more apparent and probably before long involve

involve him in the commission of some
serious blunder.

I have &c. &c.

/Signed/ C. R. Kelly

Ag. Pt. Asst to the Governor

/True Copies/

Charles Reed

Collector and Agent to the Govt.

1859

Revenue Dept.

In a letter from the Collector and agent to the Governor Vizagapatam dated 2 & 8th September 1859 No. 853

From

The Collector & agent to the Governor Vizagapatam

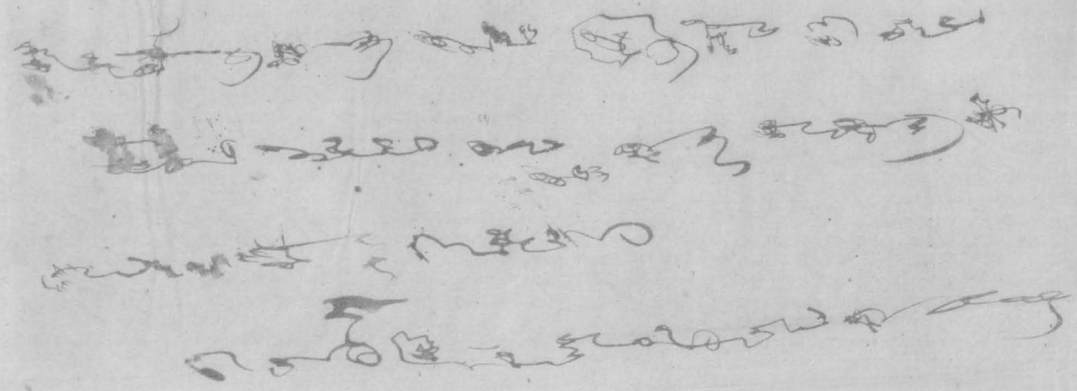
To

The Chief Secretary to Government Fort St. George

R 1706/59.

Letters from Messrs Polly and Owen regarding the future incumbency of the Golgonda Tahsildar.

Specimen of S. Venkatramdoss handwriting Tahsildar of Golgonda



Vizagapatam
Collr. & Govt. Agents Office
7th Septr 1857.

Collr. & Agent to the Govt.

ment on Rec. 2d. 1706.

No Person under first
& the Hon. Court requires a
medical certificate of Physical
or mental incompetency. No
Terms and one struck, & even medi-
cal men construe them so
strictly as to require a certi-
ficate in Palmers every hospi-
tal case. The Zillah Surgeon
may be so circumscribed in
his instance. Still under
under my special circum-
stances, first can hardly
dispense with a rule positively

prescribed by authority.

But tho' I could not set the Jail bounds, the Court is not bound to retain him as Jail. He may put him in a less important position, even if he does not like to put him out of custody entirely.

He ought to have sent up the Jail Surgeon's notice to his application for a certificate.

W.H.
Sept. 67.

If the man is 60 years old, and his hand shakes so that he cannot sign his name, I cannot see how the Jail Surgeon should hesitate to certify that he is no longer fit for Public Service. But the Deputy Sheriff's letter explains the delay for which he calls for from the Jail Surgeon for days to furnish a certificate

W.H.