

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
7th May 1872.*

No. 66. Read the following endorsement of the Officiating Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated 26th April 1872:—

Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 19th April 1872, No. 263.

With reference to paragraph 2 of G. O. No. 406, dated 7th March 1872, in which Government express their desire to receive some explanation of the allusion by Captain Beatty in regard to the treatment sustained by persons who sought employment at Samulcottah, I have the honour to forward herewith copy of a letter received from Mr. Hannan, Assistant Engineer in charge of No. 6 Range, Godavery, who, it will be seen, states that he has been unable to find out that any coolies have been ill-treated. I beg also to forward copy of a report from the Superintendent of Police, Godavery District, from which it will be observed that he has made the most searching inquiry into the matter, and did not obtain the least evidence to warrant his coming to the conclusion that people from the north seeking labour at Samulcottah were ill-treated in any way.

2. I have lately marched from Samulcottah to Yellamunchilly, and back again along the trunk road, and I heard nothing, even by rumour, of any such proceedings. The country looked very bare and almost void of water. People were working on the relief works or passing on their way to this district, but no complaints were made to me of any kind, except about the state of the district from the failure of the rains, and the hardships entailed on the people. I believe the story was got up by the Zemindars to prevent the people leaving their villages if there is anything in it, which I doubt.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. HANNAN, Esq., Assistant Engineer in charge of No. 6 Range, Godavery, to the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, dated Samulcottah, 3rd April 1872, No. 3.

Referring to your endorsement No. 3,809 on G. O. No. 406, dated 7th March last, I have the honour to state that on inquiry I am unable to find out that any coolies have been ill-treated.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From the Superintendent of Police, Godavery District, to the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, dated Rajahmundry, 6th April 1872, No. 72.

In reply to your letter No. 3,820, dated 14th March, enclosing copy of a letter No. 699 from the Executive Engineer, Vizagapatam, and Government Proceedings No. 406, dated 7th

On 22nd March after receipt of your letter. March, I have the honour to inform you that I have caused inquiries to be made, and have myself made personal inquiries at Samulcottah, regarding the alleged ill-treatment experienced by some persons of the Vizagapatam District, to which Captain Beatty alludes in his letter. I inquired of men from many villages in the Vizagapatam District (Anakapilly, Nakapilly, Bimlipatam, Vizagapatam, and others), and I did not obtain the least evidence to warrant my coming to the conclusion that people from the north, seeking labour at Samulcottah, were ill-treated in any way; in fact, I had ample evidence to the kind treatment many had received. The men I examined stated that they left their own country and villages owing to scarcity, hard times, and want of employ, that they came to Samulcottah hearing work was to be had there. Some of these men had made very advantageous arrangements with their employers, and were getting good wages; some 3, some 4 Annas a day regularly; others, when the labour-market became over-stocked, were only too glad

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
7th May 1872.

to work for their daily food; some said that they got work for several days in succession, and at other times were often days without work; all this is, of course, what one would expect. These starving people came down in large numbers, and were only too glad to take what they could get. Bunyas, grain merchants, contractors, maistries, etc., made with them the best arrangements they could for themselves, but I heard of no ill-treatment; many of the Vizagapatam people also went to Cocanada, some to works at Bickavole and others on to Ellore and Bezvara.

2. Mr. Turner's information is at best most vague and undefined, many of those of whom I inquired were people belonging to villages at which he had inquired; but I had no complaint from one of them, although I closely and separately interrogated each man. From the 20th February to the 1st March I was in the Toonee Division, from Samulcottah to Toonee, and travelled up the coast road to Toonee, returning along the main road to Samulcottah; during this time I met and came up with many people travelling south from Vizagapatam District. I stopped several parties and interrogated them, and the usual reply was that scarcity had driven them from their own villages, and that they were proceeding to Samulcottah, Cocanada, and other places, as they heard that abundance of work was to be obtained there. I have no doubt that many were disappointed, and that Samulcottah and Cocanada could not find work and good wages for all who came, and as the labour-market over stocked, many who came late had to put up with what they could get, or move on to other places and make better terms for themselves.

3. Although I am quite convinced that the charges against the Samulcottah people, as far as I have been able to ascertain, are utterly without foundation, I have the matter still under inquiry, and should anything further transpire I will let you know.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue Department, with reference to the orders in that department dated 7th March 1872, No. 406.

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Officiating Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

No. 67. ORDER THEREON, 7th May 1872, No. 740.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government are glad to believe that the rumour was without foundation.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, G. Thornhill, Esq.
,, the Collector of Ganjam.
,, the Collector of Vizagapatam.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

1872 Office of the Supt. of Police Godavary District
Rajahmundry, 6th April 1872

From

The Superintendent of Police
Godavary District

The Superintending Engineer
1st Division

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 3820 dated 14th March, enclosing copy of a letter No. 699 from the Executive Engineer Vizagapatam and Government Proceedings No. 406 dated 7th March, I have the honor to inform you that I have caused inquiries to be made and have myself made personal inquiries, at Samulcottah, regarding the alleged ill-treatment, experienced by some persons of the Vizagapatam District, to which Captain Beatty alludes in his letter. I inquired of men from many villages in the Vizagapatam District (Anakapilly, Ankapilly, Bhemulcepatam, Vizagapatam and others) and I did not obtain the least evidence to warrant my coming to the conclusion that people from the North seeking labour at Samulcottah were ill

ill treated in any way in fact, I had ample evidence to the kind treatment many had received. The men I examined stated that they left their own Country and villages owing to scarcity, hard times, and want of employ. that they came to Samulecottah hearing work was to be had there. Some of these men had made very advantageous arrangements with their employers and were getting good wages. Some three, some four annas a day regularly others when the labour market became over stocked, were only too glad to work for their daily food. Some said that they got work for several days in succession and at other times were often days without work. all this is of course what one would expect. These starving people came down in large numbers & were only too glad to take what they could get. Buryas, grain merchants, Contractors, Masters, &c. made with them the best arrangements they could for themselves but I heard of no ill treatment many of the Vizagapatam people also went to Cocanada some to work at Biccavole and others on to Ellore and Bezavara.

Mr. Turners information is at best most vague and undefined, many of those of whom I enquired were people belonging to villages at which he had enquired. but I had no complaint from one of them, although

although I closely and separately interrogated each man. From the 20th February to the 1st March, I was in the Toonee Division from Samulecottah to Toonee. and travelled up the Coast road to Toonee returning along the main road to Samulecottah. during this time I met many and came up with many people travelling South from Vizagapatam District. I stopped several parties and interrogated them and the usual reply was, that scarcity had driven them from their own villages, and that they were proceeding to Samulecottah, Cocanada, and other places, as they heard that a abundance of work was to be obtained there. I have no doubt that many were disappointed, and that Samulecottah and Cocanada could not find work and good wages for all who came, and, as the labour market over stocked, many who came late had to put up with what they could get or move on to other places and make better terms for themselves.

Although I am quite convinced that the charges, against the Samulecottah people, as far as I have been able to ascertain, are utterly without foundation, I have the matter still under enquiry and should anything further transpire I will let you know.

I have the honor to be
Yours faithfully
Signed C. A. Postons Captain
Supt. of Police Godavari

(True copy)

W. T. Tucker Lieut. Col. R. L.
Ag. Supg. Engineer 1st Division

Al 1458/72 -

P. N. 2063/72

Enclosed in a letter No 263
dated 19th June 1872
the Superintendent Engineer 1st Div.
to the Secy to Government

M. D. D.
Madras.

No 3
From

No 6 Range Office Govt.
Samuelcattah
3rd April 1872

The Assistant Engineer
In charge No 6 Range Godavari
To
The Superintending Engineer
1st Division

Sir,
Referring to your endorsement
on G. O. No 406 dated 7th March last, I have
the honor to state that on enquiry I am
unable to find out that any Coolies have
been ill treated.

x
No 3809

I have the honor to be

Yr. Obedt. Servant
J. J. Harman
Asst. Engineer G. O.

(True copy)

W. T. Tucker Lieut. Col. R. L.
Ag. Supg. Engineer 1st Div.

Copy

No. 263

From

Lieut. Colonel J. D. Fischer R.E.
Acting Superintending Engineer

1st Division

To

Colonel J. Carpendale R.E.
Secretary to Government D. P. W.

MADRAS

SIR,

With reference to para 2 of
Enclosure 2 G. O. No 206 dated 7th March 1872, in which
Government express their desire to receive
some explanation of the allusion by
Captain Beatty in regard to the treat-
ment sustained by persons who sought
employment at Samulettah, I have the
honor to forward herewith copy of a
letter received from Mr. Hannan As-
sistant Engineer in charge of No 6
Range Godavery, who it will be seen
states that, he has been unable
to find out that any coolies have
been ill-treated. I beg also to forward

Copy

G. O. No 2063/72
R. 1488/72.
G. O. No 1740

No 740
 Refr. are glad
 to believe that the Encom
 has without foundation.

21. P.M. Dept. Des 8 May 7 May 1872
 16. Capt. H. W. New - S
 — G. Knute Dyke S
 5 — Col. J. Langham S
 3 — J. G. S.

1872
 1872
 1872

1872
 1872
 1872

No

1872
 1872
 1872

1872
 1872
 1872

1872
 1872
 1872

1872
 1872
 1872

1872
 1872
 1872

1872
 1872
 1872

1872
 1872
 1872

1872
 1872
 1872

1872
 1872
 1872

1872
 1872
 1872

1872
 1872
 1872

Gobt. of 1872 Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated May 7th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 7th May 1872, No. 740.

MAY.

Nos. 66-67.

Alleged ill-treatment of people seeking employment at Samulcottah.—Reports from certain local Engineer Officers on this subject recorded with a remark.