

(1) Number of Pages 14(2) Date of repair 25-11-67(3) Initials of the Referencer 22.2.68**MADRAS RECORD OFFICE****GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS**Revenue DEPARTMENTG.O. No. 1076
~~B.P. No.~~Press
~~Mis.~~Dated 17-7-1875 196 .*Not to be folded or roughly handled*

1676
1

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th July 1875.*

No. 187. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st June 1875, No. 1,705:—

Read the following letter from W. H. GLENNY, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 5th June 1875, No. 194:—

IN forwarding copy of a letter (without number, dated 29th May 1875,) from the Acting Head Assistant Collector and Magistrate, I have the honor to recommend that Rupees 10 be granted as rewards for exceptionally good behaviour at a fire to each of the two Dalayats Syed Khan and Ghanta Rungadu, and that Mr. Farmer be reimbursed for his presents of Rupees 5 to each of these men, and also for the Rupees 10 he gave to the other persons who gave assistance. Mr. Farmer's letter is so full and graphic that I need make no comments upon it beyond endorsing his praise of the strikingly good conduct of the peons. It is perfectly clear that their efforts were made under energetic and intelligent direction by Mr. Farmer himself: I mention this merely because Mr. Farmer has (naturally) not mentioned it.

—
ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. R. FARMER, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Magistrate of Kurnool, to W. H. GLENNY, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Kurnool, dated Papinenipalli, 29th May 1875.

I HAVE the honor to bring to your notice the meritorious conduct of certain subordinates of the Revenue Department and others at a fire which broke out at Papinenipalli, the village within the limits of which I am now encamped. I take the opportunity of detailing particulars as to the outbreak, &c., of the fire, as I believe the information will be useful with a view of mitigating the deplorable consequences of fires of this sort, unfortunately, as you know, very common in this division.

2. Yesterday evening, when leaving my tents at about 5-30 P.M., I observed a column of smoke in the direction of Papinenipalli about a mile off. I took it for the smoke of burning cholum stubble which I had seen the ryots burning, according to their usual practice, near the village on two evenings lately. In a few minutes, however, the alarm was raised that the village had caught fire, and I went off as quickly as possible with some peons and servants and the Village Reddy who had just reached my camp.

3. I enclose a plan of the village showing the houses burnt marked in red ink. When I reached the village the houses numbered from 1 to 13 on the west side of the village were on fire. The evening was then remarkably still, hardly a breath of air stirring. The villagers were crying, shouting, running about here and there without any one to direct them, abusing each other and altogether incapable of taking the most ordinary precautions which common sense would dictate for the preservation of their houses and property; no one would listen to any one or act in concert with any one: those who had terraced houses (not likely to catch fire) and those whose houses were from their situation not likely to catch fire, remained impassive and apparently amused spectators. The stolid indifference of most of the people as compared with howls of despair from the sufferers were features in such a spectacle which probably India alone could present. Many excused themselves from lending a helping hand simply on the ground that they did not belong to the village. Pots for carrying water could not be had in sufficient numbers; ladders were nowhere to be found nor any implement to pull down the burning thatch.

4. Some of the peons who came with me were up to this time trying to direct the movements of the helpless crowd; but soon found that the imperturbability or confusion of the people prevented the success of any reasonable efforts.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th July 1875.*

5. Just at this juncture unfortunately a breeze from the west (that is, from the fire over the village) sprang up, and sparks were carried from the houses numbered 1 to 13 to the house numbered 14, which is about eight yards from the houses already burnt.

6. Then two of the Dalayats, Syed Khan and Ghanta Rungadu, climbed up on the house No. 14, which had just caught fire, and continued to pour the water which I got brought to them (from the well on the east of the village) on the burning roof until it was impossible for them to remain any longer there and the villagers themselves begged them to come down. The breeze was now freshening and blowing the fire right on to the houses on the east and south of the village. No house to the east of house marked No. 14 had yet caught fire. The object now was to prevent, if possible, the next house marked in the plan as the "Potter's house" from catching fire. If this house could be saved, the houses to the south and east of it might escape. Just then it caught fire. The same two peons climbed up on this house, but my endeavors to induce any one else to get up were unsuccessful. Water was being carried in pots from the well and handed up to the peons, who did not suffer much up to the time except from the smoke and sparks blown from the houses already burnt. The peons succeeded in quenching the fire in about a minute, but just about this time a roof of a house (No. 24 in the plan) caught fire and had become unmasterable while the fire in the potter's house was being put out.

7. One after another the houses numbered from 15 to 38 caught fire; the flames mounted very high; the smoke and sparks which enveloped the potter's house made breathing very difficult, and tried most severely the endurance of the two peons who continued in the midst of the sparks and smoke and heat which seemed to be intolerable for more than a minute at a time.

8. It now just depended whether or not the two peons could stand on the potter's house pouring water on it until the flames of the houses (Nos. 15, 16, and 22) burning on the other side of the road five or six yards off subsided. Upon the fate of the potter's house depended the fate of at least fifty houses (probably more) between which and the fire the potter's house only intervened. The heat itself, not to mention smoke and sparks, prevented most people even from going near the potter's house, and it was with the greatest difficulty that people could be got to bring water even to the sheltered side of the house. I saw that before the fire had got to its height, the peons were both much distressed. I expected every moment to see them forced to come down. The flames from houses Nos. 15, 16, and 22 were blown right towards the peons by the breeze from the north. They, however, kept wetting themselves, and had evidently determined not to desert their post while it was possible to hold it. The people too were encouraging them by calling out that, if the potter's house could be saved, the further progress of the fire could be arrested. About this time a third man named Gurappa (a toddy-drawer) joined them and worked well. The house was soaked through-and-through, and not one of the sparks which fell on it took any effect. The wind was still freshening, but the flames of the houses (Nos. 16 and 22) opposite to the potter's house were now happily abating and the roofs began to fall in. As sparks were still flying about, and as the hot wind would soon dry anything, the men had to continue on the roof; this they did until all danger had passed. I had gone round to the part of the village near the well (houses of Venkaya and Pitchaunna in plan) during the time when fire was at its height. It was comparatively cool here, and two police constables (orderlies), a tent lascar, and a third peon, who had found the potter's house too hot for them, made themselves useful here; three of them were on the roofs of the houses, and the third, an orderly who had only just recovered from a bad attack of fever, was carrying water.

9. Two taluq peons who happened to be present were, like most of the villagers, worse than useless. The two peons, Syed Khan and Ghanta Rungadu, are men of physical strength and courage (qualities very rare in Cumbum), and it was owing to the display (at the imminent risk of being burnt) of these qualities and of considerable endurance that the fire, in my opinion, was arrested in its course before it had done half the mischief which it would otherwise have done. Syed Khan had a narrow escape of being dangerously injured by a heavy post falling on him

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th July 1875.*

when he was pulling down a verandah. He is an expert in gymnastics, and managed to save himself in a way which showed the usefulness of his acquirements.

10. In England, perhaps, such conduct would call for no special recognition, but here the apathy, in fact passive abstractiveness, of the people is generally so great in emergencies like this, that it seems right not to overlook the voluntary display of opposite qualities. The frequencies of great loss by such fires will be evident from the statistics in the Police Administration Report for 1873, and in this division it will be seen from your letter, No. 391, dated 10th November 1874, that fires are exceptionally prevalent. Only last year in this very same village eighty-two houses (including every one of the thirty-eight houses now destroyed) were burnt. I believe that, if the rules submitted to you for approval with my letter, No. 54, dated 7th instant, had been in force, the houses numbered from 15 to 38 might easily have been saved, and thus a loss of property representing Rupees 344 might have been prevented, and the great discomfort which the 127 houseless inmates will suffer for some time might have been avoided. The leathern buckets and old pots recommended by me would have been invaluable. New pots which were used kept breaking on all sides just as the water was brought near the burning roofs.

11. You will see from the enclosed list that property worth Rupees 974-4-0 has been destroyed, and 182 people rendered houseless by the fire. Had it not been for the conduct of the two peons I believe the loss would have been more than double or, in other words, just as great as it was last year. Probably, if there had been two more men like them, only fourteen houses instead of thirty-eight would have been burnt.

12. I have the honor to request that, if you see no objection, you will be pleased to bring the conduct of these men to the notice of Government.

13. I gave them each 5 Rupees this morning, and distributed Rupees 10 amongst those who had helped. I think, however, that, if you are pleased to represent the circumstances to Government, Government might possibly be pleased to sanction a reward of 10 or 12 Rupees each to the peons Syed Khan and Ghanta Rungadu. For this sum a small silver bangle for each might be purchased. The conduct of the other persons noticed does not appear to me to call for any recognition from Government. It is only by most regular and abstemious habits that men here can preserve their strength and activity. Amongst revenue peons who have hardly anything to hope for and but little to fear, many of the most useless and miserable specimens of humanity are often found. Under these circumstances, I venture to hope that Government will not consider my request on behalf of the peons unreasonable should you be pleased to submit it for favorable consideration. The fire originated in house marked No. 6, where a cotton-cleaner lived. She was baking some bread and a spark ignited some of the cotton which flies up and sticks to the roof and the walls when being cleaned.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. H. GLENNY,
Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED for the favorable consideration of Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 188.

ORDER THEREON, 17th July 1875, No. 1,076.

Miscellaneous.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to record his sense of the highly meritorious conduct of the two peons, Syed Khan and Ghanta Rungadu, and to sanction their each being presented with a bangle with a suitable inscription.

3

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th July 1875.*

2. The thanks of Government should be conveyed to Mr. Farmer for his personal exertions, and his expenditure be reimbursed.
3. The whole sum expended should not exceed Rupees (100) one hundred.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) **A. MACGREGOR,**
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
the Accountant-General.

Exd. T. D. Ryan.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 2584

1076
14

From B^d of Rev.

Dated 21st June 1875.

FOR ORDERS.

For certifying sanction
to present of a sample
to the inspection bench
for. & to certify
W. James his Deputy.

acknowledging his ^{own} questions by P. 100. altogether

[Signature]

[Signature]

Govt. of 1875

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Co., Co., &c.

Dated July, 17th.

Recd.

Recd.

G. O., 17th July 1875, No. 1,073.

JULY.

No. 187-188.

Fire which broke out at Papinipatti in the
mool District.—Recording sense of the highly un-
fortunate conduct of the two persons, Syed Khan and
Ghanta Rungadu, at a —; sanctioning their each
being presented with a bangle with a suitable
inscription; thank Mr. Farmer for his personal
exertions; ordering his expenditure to be reim-
bursed; and intimating that the whole sum
expended should not exceed one hundred rupees.



FOR ORDERS.

*Remind to the collector
for the fire at Papinenipalli
and on the occasion
of a fire which broke
out in the village*

No. 1,705.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 21st June 1875.

Read the following letter from W. H. GLENNY, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 5th June 1875, No. 194:—

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. R. FARMER, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Magistrate of Kurnool, to W. H. GLENNY, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Kurnool, dated Papinenipalli, 29th May 1875.

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2. Yesterday evening, when leaving my tents at about 5-30 p.m., I observed a column of smoke in the direction of Papinenipalli about a mile off. I took it for the smoke of burning cholum stubble which I had seen the ryots burning, according to their usual practice, near the village on two evenings lately. In a few minutes, however, the alarm was raised that the village had caught fire, and I went off as quickly as possible with some peons and servants and the Village Reddy who had just reached my camp.

3. I enclose a plan of the village showing the houses burnt marked in red ink. When I reached the village the houses numbered from 1 to 13 on the west side of the village were on fire. The evening was then remarkably still, hardly a breath of air stirring. The villagers were crying, shouting, running about here and there without any one to direct them, abusing each other and altogether incapable of taking the most ordinary precautions which common sense would dictate for the preservation of their houses and property; no one would listen to any one or act in concert with any one: those who had terraced houses (not likely to catch fire) and those whose houses were from their situation not likely to catch fire, remained impassive and apparently amused spectators. The stolid indifference of most of the people as compared with howls of despair from the sufferers were features in such a spectacle which probably India alone could present. Many excused themselves from lending a helping hand simply on the ground that they did not belong to the village. Pots for carrying water could not be had in sufficient numbers; ladders were nowhere to be found nor any implement to pull down the burning thatch.

4. Some of the peons who came with me were up to this time trying to direct the movements of the helpless crowd; but soon found that the imperturbability or confusion of the people prevented the success of any reasonable efforts.

5. Just at this juncture unfortunately a breeze from the west (that is, from the fire over the village) sprang up, and sparks were carried from the houses numbered 1 to 13 to the house numbered 14, which is about eight yards from the houses already burnt.

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(True Copy.)

(Signed)

W. H. GLENNY,
Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED for the favorable consideration of Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Acting Collector of Kurnool.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

2584

1825.

MADRAS.

Ms. 21st JUNE 1875. No. 1705

3

7.

JUNE.
No. 1,705.

Five—which broke out at Pāpinipāl, in Kurnool District.—Recommendation of Collet for that a reward of Rupees 10 be granted to each of the two Dalayats, Syed Khan and Ghanta Ilungadu, for their exceptionally good behaviour at —, and that the Head Assistant Collector be reimbursed for his presents to each of these men and also for Rupees 10 which he gave to other persons for the assistance rendered by them on the occasion, submitted for favorable consideration of Government.

RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT
Oct. 10/96. 173 Dec 1875 -

or 1/2 tude

[illegible]

41076

The last Dr. in America is pleased
 to second his sense of the highly
 meritorious conduct of the two
 aged African and Atlantic navigators
 & H. Marten & Co. and being
 presented with a laurel wreath
 a suitable inscription.

2. He thanks Abraham and
should be employed to him. In such
for his personal attention. Thus
superintendence will be in England.
3. He spoke down superintend
should not exceed superintend (180)
one hundred of

26. 2nd/3rd. 16. 0. 12 2nd/3rd

~~44-100-100~~

The Recorder & Pioneer

17. 8-5/95