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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1386-A Press
~~**B.P. No.**~~ Mis.

Dated 10-4-1877 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1386-A
1

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th April 1877.

Famine Relief.

No. 222-A. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th March 8177, No. 1,408 :—

Read the following letters :—

From J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kalliandrug, 16th March 1877, No. 193.

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board, No. [illegible], dated the 3rd instant, (*vide* also G.O., No. 873, Revenue Department, dated the 28th February), I have the honor to submit for information copy of a letter, No. 68, dated the 12th instant, received from the Sub-Collector.

2. The term Maistry was, as employed before, a misnomer. The man so called ought more properly to be termed a Gumastah or Writer, as he is in charge of the pay lists of 250 coolies. Many of the gangsmen are illiterate and cannot prepare the pay lists.

3. Under the circumstances it would not be possible to exclude Brahmins from these appointments. We have not other men.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From W. H. GLENNY, Esq., Sub-Collector, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated Gooty, 12th March 1877, No. 68.

I HAVE the honor to submit the following remarks on Proceedings of the Board of Revenue of 3rd instant, communicated with your foot-note of 9th instant.

1. There is a misunderstanding as to nomenclature. We call the gangers "Kolkars;" the "Maistry" is the man placed over *five* gangs; each gang consisting of fifty persons, except in Gooty where its strength has been raised to sixty. We had to take Brahmins for the most part as Maistries, simply because Brahmins are the only class who, as a rule, can write. This being so, in the first place (I submit) there was no mistake committed in appointing Brahmins as Maistries; secondly, I did not propose to render all other agency superfluous by employing sepoys to take the place of Maistries, Superintendents, and Assistant Superintendents. Given the sepoys, I should still have retained (1), the gangers, and (2), the Public Works Department Overseers, &c. I have, in a letter of the 10th, asked for a few Native officers to take the place of the present paying officials, who are nearly all Brahmins.

2. I have already said what I could, to show that for the work we want in an emergency like this, Brahmins ha[illegible] one indispensable qualification, (*viz.*, they can read and write), and in all other respects are th[illegible]ry worst class that could be employed. In Adoni Taluq we found their characteristic fault[illegible]st disastrous; mainly because of the enormity of our numbers, but partly also because an [illegible]utely intolerable Tahsildar was succeeded by a nearly useless one.

3. With [illegible] reference I submit that the great desideratum is not more European gentlemen. It is good to [illegible] such; but if we had ten more, the grand evil would still remain. Brahmin Maistries [illegible] still continue to lie abed in the mornings, and spend the day from 9 or 10 A.M. till 4 P.M. co[illegible]g, eating, sleeping and performing ceremonies. Brahmin Revenue Inspectors and other Pay[illegible]asters would still begin their working day in the cool of the afternoon. These gentry securely entrenched, some behind their permanent appointments, some behind medical certificates, and all behind their sanctity and "the customs and opinion of the country" and the known difficulty of replacing them, simply defy with more or less openness, the efforts of European gentlemen to make them stay out from home for the length of a day. We have tried it. We have wanted to make the Maistries be on the ground daily at the hour when work should begin. To that end I built huts for them to spend the night in. The Adoni Tahsildar when I asked him whether the Maistries did really sleep in the huts replied with perfect complacence, "Yes;

when the sun is hot." We have tried hard to get the Revenue Inspectors, &c., to pay on two days in the week and two only. It is their custom of an afternoon, after dinner and sleep, to pay a few gangs on any day on which they feel inclined; and this custom they calmly adhere to. We cannot pull them out of bed, and insist upon their meal being eaten, as we eat our own, on the scene of their work. It is unnecessary to say anything here about the dishonesty of these men. The facts above stated are quite enough, in my humble opinion, to show that they are not the classes we want; and I still think sepoys and Native officers would take their place with infinite advantage to the State and to the people on relief. All this is said in support of my views not with any hope that my request, which Government have already declared their inability to accede to, will be granted because of any further argumentation.

4. I may remark that the numbers in Adoni Taluq had fallen from 88,000 to about 60,000 when the Board wrote.

P.S.—After I had written the above letter I received from Mr. Wilson a letter from one of his Superintendents, Mr. Gerard, which sets forth such a typical case of the way in which a Revenue Inspector cares for his personal comfort and evades an order, that I enclose a copy of it.

1. Ever since I joined, one of my constant efforts has been to cause the coolies to get the week's pay within the week. Not to speak of the hardship to the poor creatures, the habit of allowing arrears to remain over into the next week makes our accounts a maze. This, of course, is a great object with a man who wants to cheat.

2. Now here is a Revenue Inspector ordered to pay a certain number of gangs within the week. He pays as many as suits his fancy and then says he is indisposed! What is to be done? His house is his castle, and his person sacred. We *know* he is malingering; but what can we do? This Mr Gerard tells him (through a peon or by a written message) that he really *must* pay the rest of the coolies; it is Friday; there is no time to get a substitute Paymaster; and the coolies are sickening for want of food—not to speak of arrears having been so often forbidden by the Sub-Collector. What does the Revenue Inspector care for all this expostulation? Nothing. He knows he is safe.

3. What, I would ask, is the use of making elaborate rules about payments, and accounts and prompt relief to starving people and of sending European gentlemen, perhaps ignorant of the language and the people, when we lie at the mercy of men like these—men absolutely impregnable in their disobedience?

4. I have asked for men who *would* obey orders; who have had the soldierly and manly virtue of obedience to some extent drilled into them; men who would turn out in the early morning twice a week, or as often as required, and take their food under a tree, and stay out till the easy day's work was done. I have asked for such men. If I do not get them, so much the worse for me and my officers, and *very* much the worse for the coolies.

From W. H. GLENNY, Esq., Sub-Collector, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated Gooty, 10th March 1877, No. 66.

I HAVE the honor to request that you will be good enough to permit me to ask the Officers commanding Native Regiments at Bellary (and, if necessary, those at Bangalore) whether they can let me have temporarily the services of a few Native commissioned or non-commissioned officers to act as Paymasters to the coolies on my relief works. I believe that Commanding Officers would be willing to give a few such men furlough or privilege leave for a few months to enable them to hold such employment.

2. I should want about six for Gooty Taluq, about eight for Alur, and about four for Tadpatri. I would, with your approval, give them 20 or 25 Rs. per mensem.

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2

3. This would enable me to dispense with the extra Revenue Inspectors and Paymasters, a class of men of whom, after many efforts to get some honest work out of them, I despair. There would be a saving in salaries, but this small saving is hardly worth a thought compared with the advantages of getting rid of these lazy, worthless, dishonest men. Neither inducements, nor threats, nor punishments, are of the slightest use. These men, if they belong to the permanent taluq staff, regard themselves as having a freehold of their appointments; when their appointments are temporary it pays them better to cheat and be dismissed, after a short time, than to retain their posts and be obedient and honest.

4. To-day I answered a letter of yours in which you expressed concern lest the people might suffer if we were too tardy in re-admitting persons eliminated from our works. I emphatically declare that I consider the suffering which might be brought about, as you apprehend, is as nothing compared with what has all along been caused by these men, and will continue to be caused by them, so long as we retain them. Their petty exactions and vexatious delays are forced upon one at every turn.

5. Mr. Wilson, in Gooty Taluq, made two judicious and simple rules which, if obeyed, would put an effectual check on the rascality of these men. Thursdays and Saturdays were to be the two regular pay days. All the coolies were to be paid on those days, and on those only; and each Paymaster, before starting, was to send in to Mr. Wilson a memorandum showing the number of people he was starting to pay, the amount of money he was taking out with him, and the hour of starting. Will it be believed that for a whole month these men have baffled the efforts of Mr. Wilson, supported by me, to get these simple orders obeyed? Each man has about 2,000 coolies *at the outside* on about five miles of road to pay: a perfectly easy day's work as I know from personal trial. One Revenue Inspector the day before pay day reports himself sick. Others, more audacious, simply defy orders, trusting to our objection to create confusion by dismissing them, and make piecemeal payments to a few hundred coolies on non-pay days. Only two or three times has the required memorandum been got hold of, by dint of sending repeated demands for it: the men have the insolence to allege want of time as an excuse for not writing it.

6. Captain Hamilton, Mr. Oldham (Bengal Public Works Department), Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Maltby will support my assertion that the working day of these Brahmins never begins till after the post-prandial siesta: not one of them ever appears till the cool of the afternoon. When he *does* appear instead of passing, as I have repeatedly ordered that he should, along the line of gangs, he *squats comfortably on a carpet under a chosen tree, and has the gangs brought to him: with a result in loss of labor, in confusion, and in misery on the part of the many gangs doomed to wait till "next afternoon" (which may mean a "week") that may be imagined.

7. On the 19th ultimo, the Adoni Tahsildar received from me at 7 A.M. an order in writing, to pay some thousands of poor people who, as I had discovered, had

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* One gentleman had them brought to his private residence after 6 p.m., and continued paying till he felt inclined to go asleep. This practice he continued for several nights till detected. Another had his work done by two friends, while he himself slept through the hot hours of the day.

also stopping the pay

received no pay for eight days. At 11-30 A.M. on his (the Tahsildar's) own showing the Tahsildar passed this order on to the Paymaster; and the Paymaster (according to the Tahsildar to whom all this delay seemed quite a matter of course) declared his intention of going "after meals" to the work. When *I* was returning from *my* day's work *in* the field at about 4 P.M., I found that the Paymaster had just arrived, about two miles out from his home, and was composing himself to his work. On the very same evening Captain Hamilton and Mr. Oldham found another of these gentry beginning *his* day's work at about 5 P.M. at about the same distance or a little more.

8. All this (and it is but a sample of what is the rule) occurred, not when we were only beginning to get things into order, but after we had been putting all the pressure we could upon these men for weeks. I repeat that I despair of these men: and I feel sure that the employment of Native military officers would be an incalculable gain to everybody interested, otherwise than dishonestly, in relief works.

SUBMITTED to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue for orders.

NUTHIMADUGU,
13th March 1877.

(Signed) J. H. MASTER,
Collector.

WITH these papers, the Collector of Bellary forwards communications from the Sub-Collector, Mr. Glenny, on the subject of the inefficiency of Brahmins on relief works, and the employment of sepoys or Native officers. Mr. Glenny wishes [illegible]nts of Native Regiments to place Native officers, commissioned or non-commissioned, at his disposal.

2. In G.O., 28th February 1877, No. 873, and 13th March 1877, No. 1,062, Government have rejected Mr. Glenny's suggestion for the employment of sepoys; but Government were led to believe that they were wanted as Maistries or Gangsmen, whereas it now appears that the Brahmins, whom it is desired to replace, are Gumastahs or Paymasters, and it is presumed that the Native officers are required to fill these posts. The Board have no hesitation in rejecting this proposal, as military men of the class in question are quite unfit for such work. Further, the men are probably not available.

3. The Board fail to appreciate Mr. Glenny's difficulty. They cannot understand why it has been felt with such intensity only in his division. The proper class of men to draw upon for these petty Paymasterships is Curnams of villages on small extra remuneration. On such men there is ample hold, and the employment of some of the "Ghair missal" Curnams, who are very numerous in Bellary, would be a valuable check upon the office-holders, whose places they hope to obtain.

4. With regard to the disobedience of orders complained of, there must have been many cases in which it would have been possible to make an instant and salutary example, and Mr. Glenny might have relied upon support in such action. The Board hope that it is not too late for such measures.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

1386-A
3

No. 222-B. ORDER THEREON, 10th April 1877, No. 1,386-A.

Miscellaneous.

THESE papers disclose the fact that not only are coolies not regularly paid but that they do not get their pay within the week for the work of that week.

2. The Government decline to accept Mr. Glenny's explanation, and hold him and the officers associated with him responsible for the non-enforcement of their own orders. Paymasters who neglect their duties or disobey orders should be dismissed and others appointed in their place.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Financial Department.
,, the Public Works Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

ly also stopping the pay

Govt. of 1877; Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The BOARD of REVENUE,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated April, 1877.

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 16th April 1877, No. 1,386-A.

APRIL

Nos. 221-A—229-B.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 930 A.

Employment of Sepoys or Native Officers on Relief-works in the Sub-division of Bellary—Passing remarks on Board's Proceedings submitting papers regarding the proposal —.

1386-A
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For orders

[illegible] upon
have [illegible] and
paper that [illegible]
greater [illegible]

I have read these papers with much care. I am only clear from them the impression that the Brahmins are the masters & that Mr Glenny either he sees & knows what is right. Was not the power of control needed to get his orders obeyed — This I suspect from his own remarks when I met him at Gooty. —

If Mr Glenny or other officer gives clear & positive directions for the payment of gangs at particular hours & goes the next day & if he finds payment not going on — then & there dismisses the defaulter putting in another man on the spot — & repeats that process 2 or 3 times invariably also stopping the pay

Mr Glenny's Brahmin subordinates appear to have done pretty much as they pleased — If he did not dismiss them it was apparently because he could not replace them. —

I do not see why the Bd. should denounce Native Sub. & Comd & non-comd officers as unfit to be paymasters of cooly gangs. — I should think it probable that they wd do very well indeed if they could read & write.

Orders are requested

8/4/77 J.H.

of every paymaster &c
who is not at his post at
proper hours — he will in
a week find that he will
be obeyed —
The papers now disclose
that not only are Coolies
not regularly paid but
do not get their pay within
the week for the work of
that week —
Mr Glenny's incompetency
[illegible] the
responsibility of suffering
on Govt. — it sh[oul]d be pointed
out to him that he & other
officers are responsible
for enforcing the orders

R.B. 5/7

Glenny ought to be cenm[illegible]
but I fear that it is al-
most too late
I w[oul]d tell him that the
Govt. decline to accept
his explanation & that
hold him responsible
for not enforcing orders &
preventing the misery con-
sequent on their disobed-
What is master
about — 8/9/h

Anything more condemnatory of
himself than Glenny's letter I have
never read.
I fully concur with the remarks
of H.G. & Sir W.E. G.H.

No 1386 A

1386-A
6

G. O. of 10th April 1877

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10/4/77 J. H. S

Issued Copy to the Board of Rev. on 13 April
35 P C of 20 April /77 ✓
5 the Financial Dept. ✓
21 the C W Dept. ✓

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Dsp

4-4-77

Standing - [illegible]

Revenue Department

1386-A/96

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 28th March 1877

No. 1408.—

Read the following

Boards No 3000

No. 193

From

The Collector

Bellary

To

The Secretary to the

Board of Revenue

Madras

Sir

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board No. – dated the 3d Instant (Vide also G. O. No. 873 Revenue Department dated the 28th February) I have the honor to submit for information, copy of a letter No. 68 dated the 12th Instant received from the Sub Collector.

2 The term Maistry was as employed before a misnomer. The man so called ought more properly to be termed a

Gumasta or writer as he is in charge of the pay lists of 250 coolies. Many of the gangsmen are illeterate and cannot prepare the pay lists.

3 Under the circumstances it would not be possible to exclude Brahmins from these appointments. We have not other men.

Bellary Collr's Office
Dated 16th March 1877 } I have &c
(Sd) J. H. Master
Collector

Enclosure

No. 68

To
J. H. Master Esquire
Collector Bellary

Sir

I have the honor to submit the following remarks on Proceedings of the Board of Revenue of 3d Instant communicated with your footnote of 9th Instant.

1 There is a misunderstanding as to nomenclature. We call the gangers "Kolkarans" the Maistry is the man placed

over *five* gangs. Each gang consisting of 50 persons, except in Gooty where its strength has been raised to 60. We had to take Brahmins for the most part as Maistries simply because Brahmins are the only class who as a rule can write. This being so, in the first place (I submit) there was no mistake committed in appointing Brahmins as Maistries. Secondly I did not propose to render all other agency superfluously employing sepoys to take the place of Maistries, Superintendents and assistant Superintendents. Given the sepoys; I should still have retained (1) the gangers and (2) the D. P. W. Overseers &c. I have in a letter of the 10th asked for a few Native Officers to take the place of the present

Paying Officials, who are nearly all Brahmins.

2 I have already said what I could, to show that for the work we want in an emergency like this, Brahmins have one indispensable qualification (viz they can read and write,) and in all other respects are the very worst class that could be employed. In Adoni Taluq we found their characteristic faults most disastrous, mainly because of the enormity of our numbers, but partly also because an absolutely intolerable Tahsildar was succeeded by a nearly useless one.

3 With all deference I submit that the great desideratum is not more European Gentlemen. It is good to

to have such: but if we had ten more, the grand evil would still remain. Brahmin Maistries would still continue to lie abed in the mornings, and spend the day from 9 or 10 A.M. till 4 P.M. cooking, eating, sleeping and performing ceremonies. Brahmin Revenue Inspectors and other Paymasters would still begin their working day in the cool of the afternoon. These gentry securely entrenched, some behind their permanent appointments, some behind medical certificates, and all behind their sanctity and "the customs and opinion of the country" and the known difficulty of replacing them, simply defy with more or less openness, the efforts of European gentlemen to make them stay out from house for the length of a day. We have tried it. We have wanted to make the maistries be on the ground daily at the hour when work should begin. To that end I built huts for them to spend the night in. The Adoni Tahsildar, when I asked him whether the maistries did really sleep in the huts replied with perfect complacence, "yes; when the sun is hot. We have tried hard to get the Revenue Inspectors &c to pay on two days in the week and two only. It is their custom of an afternoon, after dinner and sleep, to pay a few gangs on any day on which they feel inclined: and this custom they calmly adhere to. We cannot pull them out of bed, and insist upon their meal being

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eaten, as we eat our own, on the scene of their work. It is unnecessary to say anything here about the dishonesty of these men. The facts above stated are quite enough in my humble opinion, to show that they are not the Class we want: and I still think separate and Native Officers would take their place with infinite advantage to the State and to the people on relief. All this is said in support of my views: not with any hope that my request, which Government have already declared their inability to accede to, will be granted because of any further argumentation.

4 I may remark that the numbers in Adoni Taluq had fallen

from 88000 to about 60000 when the Board wrote.

Bellary Sub Collrs Office
Gooty
12th March 1877

I have &c
Sd/ W. H. Glenny
Sub Collector

P.S. After I had written the above letter, I received from Mr Wilson a letter from one of his Superintendents, Mr Gerard, which sets forth such a typical case of the way in which a Revenue Inspector cares for his personal comfort and evades an order, that I enclose a copy of it.

1 Ever since I joined, one of my constant efforts has been to cause the coolies to get the week's pay within the week. Not to speak of the hardship to the poor creatures, the habit of allowing arrears to remain over into the next week makes our accounts a maze. This of course is a great object with a man

man who wants to cheat.

1386-A
12

2 Now here is a Revenue Inspector ordered to pay a certain number of gangs within the week. He pays as many as suits his fancy and then says he is indisposed. What's to be done? His house is his castle and his person sacred. We know he is malingering: but what can we do? This Mr Gerard tells him (through a peon only a written message) that he really *must* pay the rest of the coolies: it is Friday: there is no time to get a substitute pay-master: and the coolies are sickening for want of food not to speak of arrears having been so often forbidden by the Sub Collector. What does the Revenue Inspector care for all this expostulation? Nothing! He knows he is safe.

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Sd/ W. H. Glenny

(True Copy)
Sd/ J. H. Master
Collector

Read also the following

No. 66.

To
The Collector of
Bellary

Sir

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would be a saving in salaries, but this small savings is hardly worth a thought compared with the advantages of getting rid of these lazy worthless, dishonest men. Neither inducements nor threats, nor punishments are of the slightest use. These men, if they belong to the permanent Taluq staff regard themselves as having a freehold of their appointments: when their appointments are temporarily it pays them better to cheat and be dismissed after a short time, than to retain their posts and be obedient and honest.

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× One gentleman had them brought to his private residence after 6 P.M. & continued paying till he felt inclined to go asleep. This practice he continued for several nights till detected. Another had his work done by two friends while he himself slept through the hot hours of the day.

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day's work in the field at about 4 P.M. I found that the paymaster had just arrived, about 2 miles out from his home, and was composing himself to his work. On the very same evening Captain Hamilton and Mr Oldham found another of these gentry beginning his day's work at about 5 P.M. at about the same distance or a little more.

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gain to everybody interested, otherwise than dishonesty, in relief works.

1386A
17

I have &c

Sub Collrs Office } Sd/ W. H. Glenny
Gooty } Sub Collector
10th March 1877 }

(True Copy)

Submitted to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue for orders

18-3-77 } Sd/ J. H. Master
Nuthimadugu } Collector
Dharmavaram Taluq }

With these papers the Collector of Bellary forwards communications from the Sub Collector Mr Glenny on the subject of the inefficiency of Brahmins on relief works, and the employment of sepoys or native officers

Mr Glenny wishes to be permitted

to ask the Commandants of native regiments to place native Officers Commissioned or non commissioned at his disposal.

2 In G.O 28th February 1877 No 873 and 13th March 1877 No 1062, Government have rejected Mr Glenny's suggestion for the employment of sepoys, but Government were led to believe that they were wanted as maistries or gangs-men, whereas it now appears that the Brahmins whom it is desired to replace are gumastas or paymasters, and it is presumed that the native Officers are required to fill these posts. The Board have no hesitation in rejecting this proposal, as military men of the class in question are quite unfit

unfit

1386A/18

unfit for such work. Further the men are probably not available.

3 The Board fail to appreciate Mr Glenny's difficulty. They cannot understand why it has been felt with such intensity only in his division. The proper class of men to draw upon for these petty paymasterships is Carnams of villages on small extra remuneration. On such men there is ample hold; & the employment of some of the Ghairimirasi Karnams, who are very numerous in Bellary, would be a valuable check upon the office holders whose places they hope to obtain.

4 With regard to the disobedience of orders complained of there must have

have been many cases in which it would have been possible to make an instant and salutary example, and Mr Glenny might have relied on support in such action. The Board hope that it is not too late for such measures.

(True Copies & Extract)
Sd/ H. E. Stokes
Secretary

To
The Collector of Bellary

(True Copy)

[illegible]
Secretary

To
The additional Secretary to Govt.
Revenue Department

1286-A
19

Rev: 1877 Dept
7 No. 1988.

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
Dated 28th March 77
Recd. 29 —

31 III

Passing orders
on letter from the
Collector of Bellary
regarding employment
of sepoys or native
Officers on relief
works

No 2222a

G.O. 10 April/77 No 1356^{a}

C 4-4-77 R 9-4-77