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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	3029	Press. / Mis.
Dated	29-9-1877	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

PR

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

29th September 1877, No. 3,029.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 854. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th September 1877, No. 4,421.

Read the following letter from W. B. OLDHAM, Esq., B.C.S., Taluq Officer, Adoni, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated Adoni, 1st September 1877, No. 232 :—

I HAVE the honor to report that on the 24th ultimo, Mr. P. H. Brown, Executive Engineer, 4th Grade, North-Western Provinces, arrived at Adoni and showed me an order directing him to relieve Lieutenant Smithers, who was ordered to take charge of the Range Office at Gooty.

2. I heard of this transfer with much regret, but as it appeared to be promotion for Lieutenant Smithers, accepted it in silence. But a note just received from him informs me that personally he would rather not be removed. He is not, as far as I know, making any official application on the subject, but I take advantage of my now knowing that he is not anxious for the change to ask to be allowed to retain him for the following reasons.

3. He joined here on the 23rd June, and was posted to Emaganur in charge of an unfinished road nineteen miles long on which at one time were over 40,000 laborers. They are, and have been, almost altogether women and children with a few feeble men. From these unpromising elements Lieutenant Smithers has obtained a greater outturn of work than was given in the whole period prior to his arrival, and besides its actual outturn the work under him is useful and good. He has besides been the relief officer for the people on his work, and an efficient one; and these results have been obtained with an apparent absence of coercion and with a smoothness and quietness which can only be accounted for by his unceasing interest, and the fact that he has never left his range since the day he joined it.

4. He is the only Madras Civil Officer at my disposal, and to be deprived of his local knowledge and system of working would be a serious loss. For instance, to the contract work which he is superintending he has arranged for contracts with villages. This system is, I believe, in accordance with the wishes of Government, and in practice is excellent; for under it the effective and ineffective classes separate naturally and of themselves, and though it cannot be extended to nearly every village in the taluq its benefits are none the less in those lying near works. But it would be very difficult for the Bengal Officers to institute or maintain this system, and if Lieutenant Smithers goes it must in a great measure fall through.

5. With officers capable of exacting work the home relief tickets of the able-bodied destitute can be rigorously cancelled. Without such officers I say advisedly that it will be better to maintain them gratuitously in their villages, both in consideration of the uselessness of the work they have been doing and to prevent the taluq being again inundated with strangers. Lieutenant Smithers's village contracts are a perfect bar to the influx of strangers, which is undesirable for many reasons, and for none more plainly than that there is barely sufficient useful work for the residents.

6. From the Public Works Department Officers of the district, I can expect no assistance. Of this there have been many instances, the last being Mr. Leggatt's No. 1,163, of the 13th August 1877, to your address which you have just forwarded to me. You will remember that on the 23rd June when Lieutenant Smithers joined the (Mr. A. J. Oldham being still engaged on the Railway), I applied that the Department of Public Works subordinates in the taluq who were paid from Famine Funds might be placed under Lieutenant Smithers's orders. To this Mr. Leggatt acceded on the 13th August in the letter referred to, which he concludes by writing: Mr. Oldham is mistaken in supposing that they "(Department of Public Works subordinates in Adoni paid from Famine Funds)" are working independently, and if he had fault to find with their system of carrying out work he should have brought it to the notice of the Range Officer and had it rectified.

7. As my application was made to obviate resort to the course which Mr. Leggatt says I should have pursued, and as he accedes to my application, this enunciation of what I should have done seems (apart from its tone) superfluous. Regarding the independent working of these subordinates, I can say from my personal observation that they came to and left their work as they liked. The Range Officer had not been here since April. Mr. Leggatt cannot say the same because during the 6 months in which I have been here, although there have been never less than 90,000 and as many as 128,000 persons all employed on works under him, he has never been to the taluq. In April and May last, I would gladly have consulted him on many points, but was always told that he was at Ramandroog. There is nothing more discouraging in operations like those now being carried on here than to see the utterly inadequate return given for the great sums expended, and as this forces itself upon me daily I venture to continue my efforts to have it obviated. As my application for the retention of Mr. A. J. Oldham's services was acceded to by Government, I am encouraged now to apply regarding Lieutenant Smithers. From his local knowledge alone his services here are more valuable than those of Mr. Brown, though there is abundant work for the latter also if he be allowed to stay here as well.

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue for the favorable consideration of Government. Changes are at all times injurious, but it is most inadvisable in the present instance. Mr. Smithers has evidently worked hand in hand with the Civil Officers, and it would be a great pity to lose his services just at this time when the system of village contracts is being everywhere enforced.

Bellary,
15th September 1877.

(Signed) J. H. MASTER,
Collector.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The Board support the Collector's recommendation that Lieutenant Smithers be permitted to remain if possible in the Adoni Taluq.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 855. Order thereon, 29th September 1877, No. 3,029.

Miscellaneous.

The Chief Engineer is requested to arrange for the retention of Lieutenant Smithers in the Adoni Taluq, and will call on the District Engineer, Mr. Leggatt, to state how often and at what times he visited the Adoni Taluq during the past six months when it was crowded

with relief laborers, and also how long during the past twelve months, and on what dates he was at Ramandroog.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Collector of Bellary.
" the Public Works Department.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

29 October 1877 to 2 Nov 1877

Revenue Department.

No 4 & 21

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 20th September 1877.

Read the following:

No. 232

From. W. B. Oldham Esqr. B.C.S.
Salug Officer
Adoni

To The Collector of Bellary

Sir,

I have the honor to report that on the 20th Ultimo Lieut P. H. Brown Executive Engineer 4th Grade S. W. Provinces arrived at Adoni and shewed me an order directing him to relieve Lieutenant Smither who was ordered to take charge

charge of the Range office at Gatty.

I heard of this transfer with much regret, but as it appeared to be promotion for Lieutenant Smither, accepted it in silence; but a note just received from him informs me that I personally may be unable to be removed. Nor is not as far as I know, making any official application on the subject, but I take Advantage of my now knowing that he is not desirous for the Change, to ask to be allowed to retain him for the following reasons.

He joined him on the 23d June, and was posted to Company

in charge of an unfinished road 19 miles long on which all are hard work & poor labourers. They are and have been almost altogether women and children, with a few feeble men. From these unpromising elements Lieutenant Smither has obtained a greater out turn of work than was given in the whole period prior to his arrival, and besides the actual out turn, the work under him is useful and good. He has been the Relief Officer for the people in her work, and as efficient one; and these results have been obtained with an apparent absence of coercion and with a sympathetic and great consideration

which can only be accounted
for by his increasing interest and
the fact that he has never left
his range since the day he joined
it.

He is the only Madras Civil
Officer at my disposal, and to be
deprived of his local knowledge
and system of working would be
a serious loss. For instance in
the contract work which he is
superintending he has arranged
for contracts with villages. The
system as I believe in accordance
with the wishes of Government,
and in practice is excellent, for
under it the effective and in-
effective classes separate na-
turally, and of themselves, and
though it cannot be intended

to nearly every village for the
Taking its benefits are now the
few in those laying near works.
But it would be very difficult
for the Bungalow Officers to institute
& maintain this system, and
if Lieutenant Smither goes it
must in a great measure fall
through.

With Officers capable of exact-
ing work the home relief testing
of the able-bodied destitute could
be rigorously carried out. Without
such Officers I say advisedly that
it will be better to maintain
them gratuitously in their vil-
lages, both in consideration of
the preciousness of the work they
have

have been doing and to prevent the Tabs being again inundated with strangers Lieutenant Southen Village contracts are a perfect box to the influx of strangers which is undesirable for many reasons and for none more plainly than that there is barely sufficient useful work for the residents.

From the D. P. W. Officers of the District I can expect no assistance. Of this there have been on many instances, the last being Pte Leggatts No 1963 of the 13th August (?) to your address which you have just forwarded here. You will remember that on the 23d June when Lieutenant Southen

Joined me (Pte A. J. Oldham being still engaged on the Railway) I applied that the D. P. W. subordinates on the Tabs who were paid from Famine Funds might be placed under Lieutenant Southen orders. To this Pte Leggatt answered on the 13th August in the letter referred to which he concludes by writing Pte Oldham is now taken on suffering that they (D. P. W. Subordinates on Actual pairs from Famine Funds) are working independently and of he had fault to find with the system of carrying out works he should have brought it to the notice of the Resident Officer and

had it rectified.

As my application was made to obviate recourse to the course which Mr Leggatt says I should have pursued, and as he made to my application this enumeration of what I should have done pursuant to the (apart from its tone) superfluous.

regarding the independent working of three Tabordales I can say from my personal observation that they came to and left their work as they liked. The Kruger officers had not been here since April. Mr Leggatt cannot say the same because during the 6 months in which I have been here, although there have been never less than 2000

and as many as 12 to 1500 persons all employed on works under him, he has never been to the Salug. Sir April and by my last I would gladly have committed him on any point, but was always told that he was at Roman Long. There is nothing more discouraging, we often obtain like those now been carried out here than to see the utterly inadequate returns given for the great sums expended and the great pains we are this force daily I venture to continue my efforts to have it abrogated, to any application for the retention of Mr A J Goldhawk's services now

...was acceded to by Government
I am encouraged now to apply
regarding Lieutenant Smither.
From his local knowledge alone
his services here are more valuable
than those of Mr Brown, though
there is abundant work for the
latter also, if he be allowed
to stay here as well.

I have
Yours
Forest Office
Dated 4th Sept 1877

A Lavette
Dy C.P.B. Oldham
Acting Officer

[True Copy]

Forwarded to the Board of
Revenue for the favorable consider-
ation of Government. Changes
are at all times injurious, but
it is most undesirable on the
present occasion, for Smither

Lee

have evidently worked hard
hand with the local Officers,
and it would be a great pity
to lose his services just at this
time when the system of village
Contracts is being every where
enforced.

Bellary
16th Sept 1877

Dy Collector

Submitted for the orders
of Government
2. The Board support the Collector's
recommendation that Mr Smithe
be formally placed in charge of parts
of the Adoni Taluq.

[True Copy] Hodgett

Chief Secretary
to Govt

To
The Addl Secretary to Govt R.D.

Ref W.D. Desp
No 2226

Secretary
War Office
Whitehall

Board of Works
Secy's Office
Dec 1st

Ln 3029

The Chief Engineer wishes to
acquaint the Secretary of State for War
that he has received a Report from
Lt Engineer Leggatt, together with
a Plan and Estimate, which he has
directed to be made, of the Works
necessary to be executed at the Mole
at Kingstown, for the purpose of
affording Shelter to Vessels
during Easterly Winds.

29 Feb 33 24/2/33

Ref

Dec 1st 1832