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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

4071.

RKV

Press.
Mis.

Dated

20.

7.1877.

197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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4074

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

10th July 1877, No. 398 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read the following paper:—

No. 135. From J. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Esq., District Engineer, Nellore, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Nellore, 5th July 1877, No. 1,173.

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the orders of Government, copies of correspondence between the Executive Officers of the Kottapatam and Iskapully Divisions of the canal and myself regarding immigrant coolies who refuse to work and who desire to return to their homes.

2. There have been occasional strikes previously somewhat similar to those now reported; but by putting the people on subsistence allowance they generally returned to work, or in the case of the Cuddapah and Kurnool coolies many of them made their way home in the best way they could.

3. The present "strike" is not extensive; but, so far as it has gone, the people seem to be more determined to leave now than on previous similar occasions.

4. Mr. deGrousilliers has not reported if the sixty coolies referred to in his telegram dated the 2nd ultimo have returned to work, and I do not know if they are still on subsistence allowance or not. Of the coolies referred to by Lieutenant Henderson, 134 came to Nellore on the 2nd instant; they are being now fed at the relief house here, and I am in communication with the Collector as to what is to be done with them.

5. I examined these people this morning; there are three maistries, two of these had 9 Rupees each and the third had Annas 8-3 in his possession. The maistries who had 9 Rupees each had been only three months on the canal; the man with Annas 8-3 had been six months on the work. I could not find a pie among the coolies. The maistries were strong men, and, with the exception of a few aged people, the coolies were all in good condition; they had little stocks of rice and condiments sufficient for two or three days, and a good number of brass utensils. I accused them of having money hidden in their baggage, but they explained that they were not able to do task-work; they were therefore the whole time on daily pay, which was only just sufficient to support them, and they had not saved a farthing. The daily pay they said they received was 2 Annas for men, $1\frac{1}{2}$ Annas for women, 1 Anna for children between seven and twelve years, and 6 Pies for children under seven years of age.

6. Mr. Grose seems disposed to send these people home in charge of some responsible person with provision for the journey; should he wait, however, until the orders of Government on this report are received, the people will be employed or otherwise provided for while they are here.

7. The Canal Officers are unanimous in recommending that all immigrants who now wish to return home should be allowed to do so, the following are the numbers now on the work:—

8. Two-thirds of the above number would probably accept the option of returning as they say than can now be employed on cultivation in their own villages; there is but little dry work now on the canal, and as immigrants as a rule have never taken kindly to work in water this is another reason probably why they wish to go away.

9. The numbers are so small in comparison with the numbers already dependent on State relief in the districts to which they belong that even if they all returned and did not provide for themselves as most of them say they will do, they could not cause much embarrassment to the Government officers by returning home, and so far as the canal is concerned, their departure will be a great relief to the establishment and will have but very little effect in delaying the progress of the work. Under these circumstances as well as that at the end of this month there will really be no room for immigrants on the canal, I am disposed to support the recommendation of the Canal Officers that the immigrants now on the canal be allowed to leave the work whenever they choose to do so provision being given to them for their journey homewards as promised by Government.

From Lieutenant C. B. HENDERSON, R.E., Executive Officer, Iskappully Division, to J. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Esq., District Engineer, Nellore, dated 1st July 1877, No. 733.

I HAVE the honor to request that you will be good enough to favor me with instructions about the return of immigrant coolies to their own districts.

2. A large gang of Bellary coolies from Mr. Kelly's work has this day struck work and refused absolutely to continue any longer on the canal though they are getting daily batta; in the absence of all orders on the subject, I am unwilling to issue money to them to take them back to Bellary, and I have requested them to wait a week longer, when the question about batta for the journey will be decided. I am inclined to think that they will not stay, and if they set off to night to march to Bellary they will certainly suffer great hardships. I have made all my arrangements to go to Ramatheerham, where I am much wanted, and I cannot therefore personally look after this gang.

3. The question about the return of immigrants is a serious one; the coolies say that cultivation has commenced in Bellary, and I fear that nothing short of double batta and no work will detain them; there is really no necessity for keeping them; my reduced establishment is hardly able to cope with the local labor, and the outturn of work by immigrants is wretchedly small.

4. I fear that when batta is issued for the journey there will be many cases of personation, and coolies will come again and again for it before they really leave the place.

5. Except for sectioning spoil banks the immigrants are useless in this sub-division as far as I have seen. The excavation is making rapid progress, and if no rain falls it will be completed in a short time.

Service telegram from the District Engineer, Nellore, to the Executive Officer, Kottapatam Division, dated 2nd June 1877.

Permission to immigrants to return home and batta for journey must be refused. Give lowest scale of subsistence allowance daily to those who refuse work.

No. 136.

ORDER THEREON, 10th July 1877, No. 398 W.

ORDERED that the following telegram be sent to the Collector :—

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the Collector of Nellore.

„ District Engineer, Nellore.

" Revenue Department (Famine).

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies

Rev. 1877 Sept
File 5690

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of 1877 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE COLLECTOR OF NELLORE,
&c., &c., &c.

Mis. C. 20 July 1877 N 4071.

Dated July 10th.

Issued

Recd.

20/7/77

Encl.

G. O., 10th July 1877, No. 308 W.

JULY.

Nos. 135-136.

Coast Canal. — Orders on letter from
the District Engineer recommending that
permission be given to immigrants employed
on the — to return to their own districts,
telegraphed to the Collector.

N 4071
Communicated to the Secy of Rev.

1977. 20 July 1877