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(1) Number of pages 8

(2) Date of repair 29.4.72

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 873 Press
B.P. No. Mis.

Dated 28.2.1877 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

873/1

Famine Relief.

No. 887 Read the following letter from W. H. GLENNY, Esq., Sub-Collector, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated Adoni, 20th February 1877, No. 40 :—

I HAVE the honor to request most earnestly that 150 Sepoys and 2 or more Native Officers be sent to Adoni Taluq to take the place of the present staff of Superintendents and Maistries—the proportion be one Sepoy to 500 coolies. I entreat that this may be done at least for Adoni. Of course, if it were done for all my taluqs so much the better.

2. In November last, before taking charge, I asked for Sappers or Sepoys, and have repeated the request to Mr. Thornhill more than once since.

3. The request was not granted. Now, however, I trust that, in view of the experience we have had, and of the altered circumstances, the men will be sent to me at once.

4. Our twofold supervising agency has been weighed in the balance and found wanting. Our numbers have enormously increased. Instead of admitting all applicants indiscriminately we now use selection, which involves minute and frequent inspections, which, again, are impossible without order and regularity.

5. Our twofold supervising staff consists of (1) European and East Indian Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents on monthly salaries ranging from Rupees 30 to Rupees 150, and (2) Native Maistries on Rupees 8 to Rupees 15 per month.

6. Both branches of the agency have failed. I know they would fail. The Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents consist of one set of men who are of good antecedents and no qualifications, and another set whose previous history is doubtful or worse. One or two honest time-expired soldiers, a disabled Department Public Works Overseer (whom I wish to retain), and a respectable Mechanical Engineer thrown out of work almost exhaust the first category: to the remaining half dozen men the less flattering description applies. The respectable men do their best I believe, but their best is not much. They know nothing of the language, and some of them cannot read or write. With these disadvantages what can be expected of them? The other class of men for the most part shirk their work. Neither class have much control over the natives generally: and I may say that neither they nor any of us have any control over the Maistries. These Maistries are *the* weak link in our administrative chain. They are *the* utterly impracticable class whom I have always longed to abolish by a stroke of the pen. They are the authors and perpetrators of nearly all the dishonesty that goes on. Brahmins almost to a man, they are made Maistries simply because they can write. Of physical energy they have none: they hate all exertion and every thing like regularity or order. They will not be induced by promises, threats, or punishment to get up early in the morning or to curtail their habitual three or four hours' retirement for their meals, their ceremonies, and their siesta. They will insist on dining and sleeping in their own homes. It is a regular thing for the coolies to be kept waiting for hours for these Maistries, and very common for the Maistries to stay at home all day. They

have been discovered cheating Government by falsifying lists. Out of eight Maistries whose gangs and books I examined last Saturday and yesterday seven were Hindus and one a Mussalman, and I am prosecuting all seven Hindus, as Brahmins for the most part, they are in corrupt understanding with the dishonest members of our own taluq establishments. They have no trained or innate sense of duty or obedience—nothing permanent to lose or gain from us. Naturally their own ease and the desire to make hay while the sun shines are all they think about.

7. I have not time to write at length upon the antithesis to the above described state of things that would be brought about by placing a steady Sepoy over every 500 coolies. Order, discipline punctuality, and honesty would take the place of confusion, shirking, and cheating. Into the question of cost I have not time to enter, but it is perfectly certain that in mere point of pay of establishment we should save very considerably.

Copy forwarded to the Additional Secretary to Government in view of the urgency of the matter.

(Signed) W. H. GLENNY,
Sub-Collector.

No. 888. Order thereon, 28th February 1877, No. 873.

Miscellaneous.

The Government are unable to adopt Mr. Glenny's suggestion.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Bellary.
,, the Sub-Collector of Bellary.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Financial Department.

Ed. T. D. Ryan.

Govt. of (1877) Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The COLLECTOR of BELLARY,
&c., &c.,

Dated *February*, 28th.

Head.

G.O., 28th *February* 1877, *No.* 873.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 887-888.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 617.

Supervision of Relief Works, Atoni Taluq, Bellary District.—Declining to adopt Mr Glover's suggestion that 150 Sepoys and 2 or more Native Officers be sent to Adoni Taluq to take the place of the present staff of Superintendents and Maistries.

Sub COLLECTOR'S OFFICE.

Camp

No. 60 Dated 20th February 1877.

From,

The Sub COLLECTOR OF BELLARY

To

The Collector of Bellary.

Sir,

I have the honor to request that a party of 150 sepoys & 2 or more native officers may be sent to Adoni Taluq to take the place of the present staff of superintendents & maistries: the proportion to be one sepoy to 500 coolies. I entreat that this may be done at least for a month. Of course if it were done for all my talugs so much the better.

2. In November last, before taking charge, I asked for sappers & sepoys, and have repeated the requests to Mr Thornhill more than once since.

3. The request was not granted. Now, however, I trust that in view of the experience we have had, and of the altered circumstances, the men will be sent time at once.

4 Our two-fold supervising agency has been weighed in the balance and found wanting. Our numbers have enormously increased. Instead of admitting all applicants indiscriminately we now use selection — which involves minute and frequent inspections — which, again, are impossible without order & regularity.

5 Our two-fold supervising staff consists of (1) European & Eurasian Superintendents & Assistant Superintendents on monthly salaries ranging from Rs 300 & Rs 150 per mensem.

6 Both branches of the agency have failed. I mean they would fail. The Superintendents & Assistant Superintendents consist of one set of men who are by good antecedents and no qualifications, & another set whose previous history is doubtful or worse. One of the lowest time-expired soldiers, a disabled P.W.D. Overseer, (whom I wish to retain) and a respectable Mechanical Engineer known most of work, almost exhaust the first Category: & the remaining half dozen

men the less flattering description applies. The respectable men do their best I believe: but their best is not much. They know nothing of the language and some of them cannot read & write. With these disadvantages, what can be expected of them? The other class of men for the most part shirk their work. In whatever case we can control the natives generally: and I may say that neither they nor any of us have any control over the majorities. These majorities are the weak link in our administrative chain. They are the utterly impracticable class I have always urged to abolish by force. They are the authors & perpetrators of nearly all the disorder that goes on. Brahmins almost to a man, not because they are more mischievous simply because they can write. Of physical energy they have none: they hate all exertion & every thing like regularity & order. They will not be induced by promises, threats, or punishment, to get up early in the morning or to curtail their habitual 3 or 4 hours retirement for their meals, their ceremonies, & their siesta. They will insist on dining & sleeping in their own houses. It is a regular thing for the coolies to be kept waiting for hours for these majorities:

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Nov 1877 Recd
No 716
DEPARTMENT
From Bellary Collr's OFFICE
Date, 20 Nov 77 No 40
To, The
Enclosure.
Received, 21
Reporting to Govt
the Telegram in reference
to Coolie Matters
Govt No 2873 dated 17 Nov 77

point of pay of establishment
we should save very considerably

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obt Servant

Signed W. H Glenny
Sub Assistt

True Copy
W Glenny
Sub Assistt

D D
Mrr

Copy forwarded to the
Additional Secretary to Government
in view of the urgency of the
matter.
W H Glenny
Sub Asst