M.R.O. 1—77,000—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages_____

(2) Date of repair_____

(3) Initials of the Referencer_____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1007	Press / Mis.
		66
Dated	7-5	1875.

15/16

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Local Fund—Bridges.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 1007.

FROM

THE HON. D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Officiating Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I am directed to forward the marginally noted Proceedings of this Government, embodying reports on the damages caused by the unusual floods in the Tinnevelly and North Arcot Districts in November 1874, and to request that the sum of Rupees 1,10,000 may be placed at the disposal of this Government in view to their being put in a position to comply with applications from the Local Fund Boards of the Districts in question for assistance in repairing roads and bridges which have been destroyed by a disaster which was not foreseen when the annual Provincial assignment for Communications was determined, and which the current Local Fund Revenues are totally inadequate to deal with.

G.O., dated 24th November 1874, No. 1451, Revenue Department.
G.O., dated 10th December 1874, No. 1553, Revenue Department.

2. I am further to state that in fixing on Rupees 1,10,000 as the sum to be applied for, this Government have had regard to rough estimates only of the outlay which will be required for the repair of the works damaged by the floods in question.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

FORT ST. GEORGE,
7th May 1875.

Officiating Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

1875.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

From

The Offg. Chief Secretary to Govt.,
Fort St. George,

To

The Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Financial Department.

Dated 7th May 1875.

Issued

Read.

No. 1007.

Enclosure

Damage by Floods.—Application made to the Government of India for a grant of Rupees 1,10,000 in view to aid being afforded to the Local Fund Boards in North Arcot and Tinnevelly to repair Roads and Bridges which have been damaged by floods in those Districts.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
24th November 1874.

No. 135. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th November 1874 :—

Read the following letter from E. L. PEARSE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of North Arcot, to W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated Vellore, 4th November 1874, No. 782.

I HAVE the honor to report that very serious damage has been done by recent freshes in the Palar—five arches of the Gudiathum Railway Bridge, sixteen arches of the Vellore Bridge, and a large portion of the anicut below Arcot having been destroyed. Heavy rain fell here, and presumably all over the river-basin on the night of the 23rd-24th ultimo. Inches 4·76 were recorded at this station. The river rose on the evening of the 24th, and in the course of the night overflowed its banks a little to the west of the bridge and inundated the fields lying between the river and the Fort. The water passed the road by means of a tunnel and road-dam, and went off eastward without doing any damage, except to the crops. The road acting as a bund sufficed, but barely sufficed to protect the little village of Totapoliem which lies on its east side. The insufficiency of the tunnel at this point had already been recognized, and the Local Fund Board passed a resolution in their September meeting calling for an estimate for a larger bridge.

2. The river continued in flood Sunday and Monday (25th and 26th), and early in the morning of Tuesday I learnt from Colonel Shaw-Stewart that five arches of the Gudiathum Railway Bridge and nine arches of the Palar Bridge were gone. I telegraphed this information to Government, and then got word that seven more arches of this bridge had given way. The first breach was about midnight or very early morning, the second about 8 o'clock. A raft was made during the day, and in the afternoon was tried. It could not be got across the strongest part of the current, that running along the north side, and at last the adventurers had to land again on the same side they had started from, four miles lower down. Next day the force of the stream had somewhat abated, and the voyage was successfully made, since then communication has been kept up more or less efficiently.

3. I have received a report from the Tahsildar of Gudiathum, dated 26th, detailing the damage done at his head-quarters. He says, the Railway Bridge gave way about 4 o'clock that morning, that eighteen houses on his (the north-east) side of the river had fallen, and, as it appeared to him, twenty-one on the other side, but he could not get across to ascertain. The people who lived in those houses had perceived their danger and gone up into the town the previous evening, consequently there was no loss of life.

4. The Arcot Tahsildar's report, dated 30th, says that the old town and the outlying village of Bairagimattam were both threatened with inundation, but that he had the gaps in the embankment effectually stopped. When at Arcot recently, I saw the embankment which runs from the anicut back to the town of Arcot, and from the condition it was in, I should say that a very creditable amount of energy must have been displayed to make it secure under such an inordinately severe test. The villages of Pungodu and Takkancolum were flooded waist deep. The Tahsildar says, he went to see the anicut and found the middle part to the extent, as he conjectures, of about thirty shutters' space had been carried away. The Revenue Inspector reports from

the extreme south east of the taluq that floods of the Cheyar have caused great damage to crops in six villages.

5. I have heard of no loss of life by these floods, except that of one man who was drowned in attempting to cross on a small raft between Vellore and Catpady. I gather that the loss of private property other than crops is slight. The houses which have fallen at Gudiathum seem to be of a poor if not the poorest sort. The Arcot Tahsildar makes no mention of private losses in those of his villages which were flooded, and I have heard of none here. I fear, however, that one effect will be to aggravate the cattle-disease which has lately prevailed to some extent in Arcot Taluq. The road between this town and the river and the road on the side of Arcot are much cut up, but I am not in a position to give any estimate of the amount of damage to them, still less of that to the crops.

6. In my letter, No. 699, dated 23rd September, I reported the breaching of four tanks in Arcot Taluq (three of which were supplied by the anicut) and one in Vellore. A few days later six more in Arcot went, of which three were anicut-fed. The one in Vellore Taluq was admittedly in want of repair, and I think we have great cause of self-gratulation that the two taluqs of Vellore and Gudiathum have escaped so well. Strict care was taken to have all calingulahs kept constantly open, and that precaution seems to have sufficed. I am inclined to believe that if the orders given had been equally well obeyed in Arcot Taluq so many tanks would not have given way. In one case at least it is known that the calingulah was kept shut.

7. Any comment of mine on the disastrous loss of the three great works is needless. On the morning of the 31st, a special meeting of the Local Fund Board of this Circle was held to consider what should be done in consequence of the loss of the Vellore Bridge, and I enclose, herewith, a copy of the Minutes of Proceedings. I have little doubt that Government will acquiesce in the reasonableness of the hope which we venture to entertain, that a liberal contribution will be made from Imperial Funds towards the restoration of that important work. The speedy execution of the work is urgently required, but the speedy supply of such a large sum as would be needed for it could not be granted by the two Local Fund Circles combined without the sacrifice of every other consideration.

No. 568.

SUBMITTED for the information of the Board of Revenue.

VELLORE,
6th November 1874.

(Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Board await the Collector's report on the damages caused throughout the district, and on the means proposed to remedy them.

3. It may be possible to do something to repair roughly the damage in the middle of the Palar Anicut, so that the tanks could be again filled.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

No. 136. ORDER THEREON, 24th November 1874, No. 1,451.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government are much concerned to learn that serious damage has been done to Public Works in the North Arcot District by the recent floods. The submission of the Collector's full report on the subject should be expedited.

2. Paragraph 7 of the Sub-Collector's letter will receive consideration in the Financial Department, and orders will be issued from the Public Works Department for the prompt repair of the irrigation works as well as for the temporary repair, if possible, of the Palar Anicut, as suggested in paragraph 3 of the Board's Proceedings.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Ex. W. H. French.

No. 121. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th December 1874, No. 3,532 :—

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 27th November 1874, No. 602 :—

I HAVE the honor to submit my detailed report on the damages caused to Public Works, etc., in this district by the recent heavy floods in the Palar and other rivers.

2. Very heavy rain fell all over the district on the night of the 23rd and on the 24th, and extraordinary floods came down the Palar, the Poiney, the Cheyar, and other rivers on the 25th and 26th October last. In the Palar the flood commenced during the night of the 24th. The floods were of unprecedented magnitude: at the Palar Anicut, the water rose nine inches above the previously recorded maximums, and would doubtless have been still higher if the anicut had not given way; while at the Cheyar, the water was no less than three feet above the highest level previously recorded.

3. I was at the time of the floods in the Palmanair Taluq, and was for some days completely cut off from all communication with Chittoor and the southern portions of the district; as soon as letters reached me, informing me of the disasters which had occurred, I lost no time in hastening to the south of the district, where I found that intimation of the damages to the various Public Works had been already communicated by telegraph to Government by the local officers. I therefore at once proceeded to visit and inspect each of the important works seriously affected by the floods, in view to my submitting a full and detailed report for the information of Government. I deeply regret to have to inform the Government that the damages sustained by the Public Works of all kinds by the late flood are of the most serious kind, and which will entail a very heavy outlay to repair.

4. The most important Public Works, and which were most seriously injured by the effects of the floods, are as follows:—

I. The bridge over the Palar near Vellore; 16 arches have fallen, and two more are in a precarious condition.

II. The anicut across the Palar near Arcot. About 1,200 feet of the body of this work have been entirely destroyed.

III. The Poiney Anicut across the Poiney or Trivellam River; nearly the whole of the body has been carried away, and the foundations have been shaken.

IV. The Cheyar Anicut across the river of that name in the Wandewash Taluq; the approaches have breached, and the channels have also breached in several places by the head sluice being turned; the anicut and the bridge have been left uninjured.

V. The Kaveripak Tank Channel from the Palar Anicut was badly breached by the overflow of the river, and the water falling into the Govindavady Channel has injured the work done for the restoration of the St. Andrew's Bridge on the trunk road.

VI. The Poondi Large Tank in the Wallajah Taluq breached by the overflow from the Palar, and thereby the tanks of Lumatangi and Kadapperi and Poondi which are situated lower down, were all breached at once and the same time. These breaches are reported to have carried into the Kaveripak Tank (already quite full) so enormous a volume of water that its two large calingulahs were incapable of discharging the surplus water sufficiently fast, and the tank was in consequence at one time in imminent danger. Fortunately, however, the floods commenced to abate. I may mention that the Kaveripak Tank, which is the largest in this district, contains, when full, about 25 millions cubic yards, and is situated at the head of the Cortilliar River. If, by any calamity, it were to burst, a flood of terrible magnitude would pour down the valley of the Cortilliar and along the Cooum River, bringing with it a constantly increasing volume of water from the hundreds of smaller tanks it would sweep away in its course, and the town of Madras finally would be the scene of frightful disaster and loss of life. Fortunately the tank was thoroughly repaired by Government about two years ago, at a cost of Rs. 4,370, and to that judicious outlay may be attributed the successful manner in which the bund stood the severe trial it so lately sustained.

VII. The Mahendravady Channel has also breached in places by the overflow of the Palar.

VIII. The bridge over the Palmanair River on the road to Bangalore has been greatly damaged; the flood rose $21\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the river-bed in the space of three hours, and swept completely *over* the bridge, which was entirely submerged to a depth of $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet above the roadway. The parapet walls, roadway, filling in over arches, and part of the spandrels have been carried away, and the wings and approaches much damaged, but the main part of the structure has been left uninjured. The bridge in its present state presents an example of magnificently honest work on the part of the much-abused Department of Public Works. Had there been a flaw in its construction, there can be no doubt it would have been completely swept away. Ghirtheri Lall, a Madras Photographer, happened to be in the vicinity, detained by stress of weather on his way to Cuddapah, and I caused him to take photographs of the bridge, of which I now submit copies for the inspection of Government. The first was taken on the afternoon after the flood, and the second the following day. The flood continued to run with great violence for three days, the Palmanair Stream being swollen by the contents of a number of large tanks in the Punganur Zemindari, which breached one after the other, causing great damage to property, and a loss to the Zemindar, which, I am sorry to learn, has been roughly estimated at Rs. 60,000. It was this flood which carried away the Gudiattum Bridge on the South-West Line of Railway. I am now collecting information as to the size, capacity, etc., of the tanks which breached in the Punganur Zemindari, and the result will probably be of interest in calculating the volume of water which passed down in flood.

IX. Five arches of the Gudiattum Railway Bridge were carried away, and great inconvenience to passengers and traffic as well as serious loss to the Railway Company resulted in consequence.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th December 1874.

5. In the margin is given the number of tanks and channels breached or otherwise damaged by the recent floods in each of the taluqs of the district. Fortunately, however, with but few exceptions, the tanks thus breached are not of very great importance.

Names of Taluqs.	No. of Tanks breached or damaged.	No. of Channels breached or damaged.
1. Wallajah	4	...
2. Arcot	14	3
3. Vellore	...	1
4. Wandewash	60	...
5. Poloor	2	1
6. Gudiattum	...	...
7. Palmanair	4	...
8. Chittoor...	11	1
9. Chendragherri ...	11	13
In 99 villages ...	106	19

6. Almost every road in the district has been more or less damaged, the worst injuries being sustained by those near the Palar at Vellore, and between Arcot, Ranipet, and the Palar Anicut; that from Arnee to Wandewash appears to have suffered heavily as well as those in the Punganur Zemindari, where, as I have stated, a great many tanks breached. I am happy to report that no loss of life took place by these floods, except one man who was drowned in attempting to cross the Palar on a small raft between Vellore and Katpadi, and of four persons in the village of Melatangal in the Wandewash Taluq by the fall of a house. In the town of Gudiattum, thirty-nine houses situated on the bank of the river, and some houses in the villages of Pungodu and Tokkancolam in the Arcot Taluq, situated close by the Palar, were washed away by the flood. The loss of private property does not on the whole appear to have been by any means as great as we might have expected.

7. To a large extent crops are reported to have been damaged by the floods. I have issued orders to the effect that, on receipt of applications for remission from the ryots concerned, the necessary azimaish or survey shall at once be made, and the result reported at the ensuing settlement. On this account some remission will doubtless be necessary during the current fasli. In the absence of information as to the extent to which crops have been lost, I am unable even approximately to estimate the probable amount of such remissions. I am sanguine, however, that they will not be very heavy, for, in several places, I saw myself floods sweeping over fields of growing crops, which, when the water subsided, revived in the most surprising manner, although I had supposed that not a blade would be left on the ground.

8. I enclose an abstract statement showing the beriz for 1283, under the Palar, the Poiney, and the Cheyar Anicuts, in order that the Board may see to what extent the Government revenue will suffer if the damages done to the above anicuts (especially those on the Palar and the Poiney) are not at once repaired. Most fortunately the anicuts did not breach till all the tanks they supplied were completely filled, and for the present, therefore, the crops dependent thereon for irrigation are safe, and there will be no immediate loss of revenue. But the most active measures will have to be taken to ensure a supply of water for next season's cultivation, for otherwise there will be without doubt an enormous loss of revenue to Government, and very great suffering will be entailed on the ryots. I am now in communication with the District Engineer as to the remedial measures he would propose to adopt for the saving of water pending the restoration of the Palar and the Poiney Anicuts, and as soon as

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

Statement showing the Beriz under the under-mentioned Anicuts of North Arcot for Fasli 1283.

Taluqs.	Assessment.	Fasal Jasty.	Tirwah Jasty.	Total Beriz.
Palar Anicut.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Arcot	61,955 6 4	92 14 0	3,185 4 6	65,233 8 10
Wallajah	79,242 12 4	6,651 8 7	4,515 11 11	90,410 0 10
Total ..	....	....	....	1,55,643 9 8
Poiney Anicut.				
Wallajah	52,732 9 8	5,399 0 7	3,508 5 2	61,639 15 5
Gudiattum	3,769 0 7	363 4 1	416 2 11	4,548 7 7
Chittoor	4,341 15 3	554 4 11	927 13 5	5,824 1 7
Total ..	....	....	....	72,012 8 7
Cheyar Anicut.				
Wandewash	65,120 0 6	37 4 10	3,202 0 2	68,359 5 6

CHITTOOR,
27th November 1874.

(Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government with reference to G. O., 24th November 1874, No. 1,451.

2. The damage done by the floods in North Arcot amounts to a great disaster, which can only be remedied gradually by continuous exertions on the part of the Revenue, Public Works, and Forest Departments, and the Local Fund Boards.

3. The Vellore Local Fund Board will need considerable assistance from Government before they can replace the great Vellore Bridge.

4. Immediate work is necessary to prevent a loss of revenue under the Palar Anicut (Rs. 1,55,644), 1,200 feet of which have been swept away; the Poiney Anicut (Rs. 72,013) which is nearly all destroyed; the Cheyar Anicut (Rs 68,359) the approaches and channels of which have been damaged, and the numerous tanks and channels which are reported to have been breached.

5. The Deputy-Conservator of Forests gives a melancholy account of the state of his plantations which have been very successful until now.

6. Five lives are reported to have been lost.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

No. 122. ORDER THEREON, 10th December 1874, No. 1,533.

Miscellaneous.

THE papers recorded above will be communicated to the Public Works Department in view to the speediest measures possible being taken to carry out the necessary repairs and to obtain funds for the purpose.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. W. H. French

Govt. of [1874] Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated December 10th.

Rcd. Encl.

G. O., 10th December 1874. No. 1,533.

DECEMBER.

Nos. 121-122.

Damages to Public Works in North Arcot by *cent Floods.*—Communicating to the Public Works Department Proceedings of the Board of Revenue n letter from Collector, reporting on — in view to speedy measures being taken to carry out the neces ary repairs and to obtain funds.

Dr Hammond

Meine Lieben
Heute 5-0 2x19
gegen 17/2 7/9/52
as fine as it
Returns Jean
to [illegible] 52

Local Fund – Bridges.

Desp with Encl
715

No 1007. Financial Dept

To The Secretary to the Govt of
India Pub. Wks Dept

Sir,

I am directed to forward the marginally noted
papers of Government
embodying reports on the
damages caused by the un-
usual floods in the Pun-
jaub and North West
Districts in November 1874
and to request that the
sum of Rs 10,000
may be placed at the
disposal of this Govt in
view to their being put in
a position to comply with
applications from the Local
and District Municipal Boards for assistance
in repairing road and
bridges which have been
destroyed by a disaster which
was not foreseen when

G. O. 5/24 March 1874
No 1457 R.D.

G. O. 3/10 March 1874 No 1583
R.D.

~~G. O. 2/7 May 1875 Financial~~
F. D.

Rs 10,000

the annual Annual
assignment for communications
was determined, and which
the current local fund
revenues are totally inade-
quate to deal with.

I am further to state
that in fixing on Rs 1,10,000
as the sum to be
applied for this Govt.
have had regard
to such estimates only
of the outlay which will
be required for the re-
pair of the works damaged
by the floods in question.

I have &c
22/4

Estt

The estimates remain
Village bridges = Rs 75,000
Roads &c in Pimmy 14282
Rs 89,282
Add estimated hitherto 22320
111,602

Forwarded to St George
Mungy 5-

Bank paid

Application to York &
Judea for grant of
Rs 12,000 for damages &
Communications & Roads

Despatch

Govt. of {18[illegible]} Madras.

Financial

G.O. 7 May, 1875 No. 1007

Nos. 66

Damage by floods.

Application made to the Govt. of India for a grant of Rs 1,10,000 in view to aid being afforded by the Local Fund Boards in North Arcot and Chingleput to repair Roads and Bridges which have been damaged by unusual floods in those Districts.