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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 227	Press Mis.
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Dated 3-2-	18 75

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Provincial Services.

Read Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, dated 24th November 1874, No. 1449.

No. 54. ORDER THEREON, 3rd February 1875, No. 227.

The order above read, placing at the disposal of the Collector of Nellore the sum of Rupees 50,000 for relief measures, does not indicate the source from which the funds are to be provided.

2. From the absence of such indication, it is probable that the Accountant-General may include it under Provincial Services.

3. To guard against this, the Governor in Council directs that application be made at once to the Government of India in the Revenue Department for a special grant for the purpose, and, pending the sanction of that Government, the charges be debited to a "Suspense account."

4. The Accountant-General will observe, as a rule, that unless the Financial Department directs that any particular charge shall be met from Provincial Services, no charge shall be debited to those Services.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
,, Accountant-General.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Read the following letters :—

No. 129. From G. VANSAGNEW, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Nellore, 3rd November 1874, No. 2,531.

I HAD the honor to address letters to you on the 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th ultimo, and the 1st instant, without numbers, and copies of the same were despatched on the above dates to the Board of Revenue.

2. Since last writing, I have received a report from the Tahsildar of Atmakur. He was not at Devaroyapally, but at Atmakur when the flood came on. Looking from the hill at Atmakur on Monday, the 26th, he saw one sheet of water from the Vasili tank-bund to Sangam hill, and nothing but the trees to be seen of the villages of Apparowpalem, Virlagudipad, and Kotagotla. Nevertheless, not only the people but the cattle in these villages are said to have escaped.

3. The Tahsildar then went to Devaroyapally, and found that, although all retreat was cut off, no life had been lost of human beings or cattle, but most of the houses had collapsed. He describes the walls of the cutcherry as all cracked, and the building in so dangerous a state that he has asked permission,—especially as the officials have no houses to live in,—to vacate the building at once and rent a house for an office at Atmakur, where the new cutcherry building is in rapid progress. I am to-day authorising this step, and I beg that it may be formally sanctioned.

4. The Devaroyapally people are panic-stricken, and decline to rebuild their houses on the same site. I think they are right, and will take steps to give them some higher ground. In this, as in other flooded villages, the stores of grain in pits have been destroyed.

5. I have not received full official information yet from the easternmost villages of the northern delta. Mr. Plunkett will be through them to-day; but I saw a peon last night, who had just come in from Utukur, one of these villages, and he reported the people and cattle safe, and had heard no rumour of loss of life in other villages thereabouts. This relieves my mind of a great load.

6. I have definite reports from the Allur Deputy-Tahsildar of the stae of Parlapally and Vidavalur, two villages lying near the Maldevi river, three and six miles east of the Allur road. In the former, he states that ninety-three ryots lost their houses, and that their stored grain and about 500 head of cattle and sheep were also lost; and in the latter 411 houses were destroyed, the people taking shelter (along with numerous snakes) in the trees on the 25th and 26th. He does not mention the cattle.

7. He found the people in a deplorable case, and gave them some money for their immediate necessities.

8. Mr. Plunkett has started the restoration of the great northern road, which work will afford relief to numbers of people for some time to come, there being but little vestige of the road for several miles.

9. Many other villages must have suffered much as the above two have done, and in several I have heard of great loss of cattle.

10. On the whole, the way that our masonry works have stood in all directions is matter for congratulation. The bridges over the Beraperu, the Pyderu, and the Maldevi are all safe, and many other works that one would almost have expected to be

Govt. of 1875 Madras.

FINANCIAL.

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

To, Secy., &c., &c.

Dated February, 3rd.

Recd.

G.O., 3rd February 1875, No. 227.

FEBRUARY.

No. 54.

Nellore Floods.—Revenue Department request-
ed to apply to the Government of India for a
special grant to carry on relief measures in this
district and, pending sanction, the charges to be
debited to a "Suspense account."

carried away. The large Allur tank is safe; but the Ramanna tank to the north of it is breached apparently by excessive local rain. Fifteen tanks,—some large ones,—in the Kavali Taluq have breached from the same cause. The large Kovur tank is so badly cut up that Mr. Plunkett calculates it would take Rs. 8,000 to close the breaches, and doubts if even that expenditure would make it a permanently effective work in future. Mr. R. Smith has directed the Range Officer to inspect it as soon as possible. Meanwhile, a ring-bund is under construction.

11. I am very anxious to learn whether pecuniary grants may be made for the rebuilding of houses, both in the Municipality and in the villages. Mr. Plunkett has asked for instructions. The Kavali Tahsildar proposes Rs. 5 where the materials have been swept away, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ where the house has merely fallen, and Rs. 1 for huts of Yenadies. He says a thatched house of 2 ankanams (an ankanam is eight square feet) costs Rs. 25, and a tiled one Rs. 50 to build. I think pecuniary aid should be given to really poor people, and it will have to be left to the Collector and his Assistants to decide who fall within that category.

12. I do not think I have mentioned before that the flood maintained its maximum height of $27\frac{1}{2}$ feet at Nellore for ten hours on Monday, the 26th. Mr. R. Smith has good hope of a stone groyne he is throwing out from the northern bank to join the anicut. I have not heard what progress has been made in shutting out the river at Sangam, but work is progressing satisfactorily at all important points on the southern side. If the weather only holds up for a week or two, I think we shall be able to encounter an ordinary flood successfully.

No. 130 From G. VANSAGNEW, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Nellore, 10th November 1874, No. 2,626.

I HAVE not written on the subject of the flood since the 3rd instant. I have now received the Proceedings of Government of the 4th and 6th instant, acknowledging the receipt of all my letters, except the last. I have been waiting, hoping to be able to furnish the Government with complete information regarding all the inundated villages, but I find it will take some time longer before I shall be in a position to do so. To-morrow I will submit some special cases. To-day I have been out till one o'clock, and am too tired to go to office where the papers are, and I merely propose to give the Government a general view of the present state of affairs. Mr. Mackenzie and Captain Chrystie are quite well again, and the former is now at Kovur north of the river, having relieved Mr. Plunkett who, after a tour through the eastern villages which entailed many physical hardships on him, was thoroughly knocked up. Only six deaths are known to have occurred. It is marvellous how the people managed to save their lives everywhere, for the flood was beyond all experience running from six to twelve feet in height through the villages. Nor is the loss of cattle and sheep nearly so great as might have been expected. Some men and some cattle made extraordinary escapes. One man was carried off and drifted against a high clump of prickly-pear on the verge of the great river itself. He climbed on to the top of the prickly-pear, and stayed there starving for $2\frac{1}{2}$ days.

I saw him this morning, and he is not much the worse. Fifteen head of cattle washed away from a village on the north, found their way alive to the south bank of the river. They were sent into Nellore, and the owner came for them, but there was a bill of Rs. 8 against them for keep and expenses, and the owner who had lost everything had it not to pay. I thought it would be cruel to sell one to cover expenses, and, therefore, ordered the money to be paid on account of Government and made over the cattle to the owner. About sixty villages must have been completely flooded, and the damage and losses are tremendous. Mr. Plunkett writes: "It is the same story all round,—houses gone, crops gone, tanks gone, and much arable land silted up and covered over with sand. Some of it is lost altogether, while the rest is not likely to be fit for cultivation again except after some expense, and not for another year or two." I saw the water-mark on the trees this morning on the road north of the river nine and ten feet above the level of the road. Relief in money had to be given to the starving poor people in many villages visited by Mr. Plunkett and the Kavali and Udayagiri Tahsildars and the Ullur Deputy-Tahsildar; but this will not come to a large sum. They had my authority to give it wherever absolutely necessary. I have ordered building materials, *including palmyras*, to be given free without delay. Much of the work on the roads and tanks is also of the nature of relief work, for women and children and inefficient men are allowed to work for daily cooly whom the Department Public Works would not ordinarily admit on their works. I mention this particularly at Mr. R. Smith's request, and it is a matter entitling Local and Municipal Funds to consideration in the adjustment of charges. The anicut is now bare to half way between the first and second retaining walls, and, on the whole, it has stood admirably; thanks to the magnificent concrete with which, after much experiment, Mr. Smith had coated the whole apron. There is but one serious breach below the first retaining wall towards the south bank in the precise spot where there was the deepest and most serious breach in 1870. Mr. Smith accepts this as positive proof that the section of the anicut was insufficient, and that the enlargement now necessitates on the north side was essential to the permanent safety of the structure. He is also quite satisfied that the concrete saved the whole from destruction. The erosion of the north bank has quite ceased, and the stone groyne to meet the anicut is progressing so far satisfactorily. This is a matter of great importance in regard to irrigation later on in the season, for, of course, the set of the water is all to the open breach. During the past week every attention has been given to restoring irrigation to the southern delta, and I believe with entire success. If we can keep up the present supply of water, there ought to be no general loss of crop. The breach in the Nellore tank-bund will, I hope, be filled up in time to allow of the tank receiving a fresh supply, should the river fresh, as may be expected, towards the end of the month. The work of shutting out the river where it broke in at Sangam and all along the southern embankment is progressing rapidly, as well as the closing of the breaches in the Kanigiri and Duvur tanks. After what has happened, I beg the Government will issue orders for the immediate undertaking of the northern embankment independent of the rest of the Sangam project in which it has been included. It seems obvious, moreover, that if the river is embanked on the north, and is deprived of the enormous spill it has hitherto had all over the country there, the defences on the south must be very materially increased. It must be remembered that the breach north of

the anicut must have affected the height of water over it. If 6 inches are added on this account, this flood may be set down at 3 feet $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches higher than that of 1852.

P.S.—An akanum is not 8 square feet as I accidentally wrote, but 8 square yards.

No. 131. From G. VANSAGNEW, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Nellore, 11th November 1874, No. 2,631.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the order of Government, dated 6th instant, No. 1,406, and, with reference to paragraph 5 thereof, I beg to submit the following reports showing the loss caused by the flood in certain villages. Similar reports for all the inundated villages have been called for, and, on receipt thereof, a report, giving the details in a tabular form, will be submitted for the consideration and orders of Government.

2. Very few persons have yet attempted to rebuild their houses. I have issued orders at once to give the wood materials required, including palmyra trees, free of cost; still I fear many people will not be able to undertake the rebuilding without pecuniary aid. If Government will pass speedy orders in respect to these villages, it will be a guide to me in submitting proposals for the villages to be reported on hereafter.

Kavali Tahsildar's report, dated 4th November 1874, on the villages of Kovur, Padugupadu, Potiredipalem, and Patur in the Nellore Taluq.

To be returned.

Do.

Kavali Tahsildar's report, dated 8th November 1874, on Pallapolu and Iskapa-lem in the same taluq.

Do.

Allur Deputy-Tahsildar's report, dated 7th November 1874, on Utukur in the same taluq.

No. 132. ORDER THEREON, 24th November 1874, No. 1,449.

Miscellaneous.

THE Governor in Council resolves to place at the disposal of the Collector of Nellore, without delay, the sum of

Rupees 50,000 for the purpose of satisfying immediate requirements in such a mode as Mr. VansAgnew may think best. He relies upon the Collector exercising discrimination in its allotment and giving only to such as really require help.

2. The grant of wood free for the rebuilding of houses swept away was quite proper. Every exertion must be made to get the people housed before the next monsoon, and in rebuilding care must be taken that elevated sites should be selected and that sanitary considerations are regarded.

3. As much grain appears to have been lost, work must be found wherever possible for the able-bodied poor, and the sick and aged must be fed.

4. The Collector will bear in mind that the two great objects in view are the relief of the poor and the reconstruction of houses. In reporting on his method of applying the present grant he will state what further measures, if any, he would recommend.

5. The question of immediately embanking the northern side of the Pennair (which involves the strengthening of the southern embankments), irrespective of the Sangam project, will be considered at once in the Public Works Department.

6. The renting of a house for an office at Atmakur is sanctioned.

7. His Excellency the Governor in Council observes with much satisfaction the energetic efforts which have been, and are still being, made by all officers to aid the sufferers from this great calamity. It is a matter of great congratulation that so little life has been lost.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Nellore.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Financial Department.

Provincial Services

Financial Department

Thursday

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following ~~letter~~ *Memorandum*

of Government Revenue Department dated 24 November 1874 No. 1449.

Order thereon 3 Feb 75 to 207
Revenue Department
not for the purpose of
the Public Works Department
the question of
the northern side of the Pannai; and
observing with satisfaction the energetic efforts
made by all officers to aid the sufferers.

The Order above read placing at the disposal of the Collector of Mellore the sum of Rs. 50,000 for relief measures does not indicate the source from which the funds are to be provided.

2. From the absence of such indication, it is probable that the Accountant General may include it under Provincial Services.

3. To guard against this, the Governor in Council directs that application

Mr. Thom discovered
that he has done so - but
as my discovery is not official
and I have not the authority
to direct him to do so
he has been directed to
carry out the necessary steps
and is to be kept like a
horse.

Govt. of 1874 MADRAS

REVENUE.

THE COLLECTOR OF MELLORE,

&c, &c, &c.

Dated November 24th.

Sd/-

Encl.

G. O., 24th November 1874, No. 1449.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 129-132.

Relief measures in the Nilgiri District.—Placing at the disposal of the Collector the sum of Rs. 50,000 for the purpose of satisfying immediate requirements; referring for consideration to the Public Works Department, the question of embanking the northern side of the Pannai; and observing with satisfaction the energetic efforts made by all officers to aid the sufferers.

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at once to the Govt of
India in the Revenue
Department for a special
grant for the purpose
and pending the
sanction of that Govt.
the charges be debited
to a "suspense account"

4. The Accountant
General will observe,
as a rule, that unless
the Financial Depart-
ment directs ^{that} any
particular charge
shall be met from
Provincial Services, no
charge shall be
debited to those
Services.

For
The Revenue Department
Accountant General

26/1/75

5-2/75

Obt. of 1875 *W*ndras.

Paul

To

3

Dated
Recd.

3 20/3

1875, No. 227

Nos. 52

*William Ward. New York, N.Y. 1875.
To the Hon. Secy of the U.S. Dept. of
Justice, in answer to a letter from
the Hon. Secy of the U.S. Dept. of
Justice, dated 11th Decr 1874.
"Suppose back"*