

L. & M.
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Local & Munl. (1895) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1741/m
DATED 24th October 1895.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Floods.

Communicating to the Municipal Council, Ellore, G.O., Revenue Department, passing orders on the Hon^{ble} Mr. Sturrock's report regarding the damage caused by the recent -- in the neighbourhood of Ellore and Bezwada.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

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INDEXED.
Miscellaneous.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPT.

G.O., DATED 24-10-95

No. 1741 m

When given for copying.

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READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
189 , No , MISCELLANEOUS.

BACK PAPER, No.

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ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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Govt. of {1895} Madras.
REVENUE.

Issued

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Encl.

G.O., No. 657, 1st October 1895.

OCTOBER.

Floods.

Passing orders on the Hon'ble Mr. Starrock's
report regarding the damage caused by the
recent - in the neighbourhood of Ellore and
Bezwada.

order No 1741. minor 20-10-95
Communicated to the muni.

Capital Council Ellore.

18/10/95
To the Hon'ble Mr. Starrock
18/10/95

the Tahsildar of the Ellore taluk; at Perikeed I met the Tahsildar of Nuzvid; at Gannavaram Mr. Oldfield, the Head Assistant Collector of Kistna, and at Bezwada Mr. Atkinson, the Collector. I concur with all these officers in considering that except as above reported with regard to Ellore, there is no distress calling for the intervention of Government, save in the way of promptly putting the canals and tanks into order, and the eventual grant of remissions on account of crops lost by damage from scour, silt, or submersion, the last item probably being the heaviest, especially in the neighbourhood of the Colair lake. No doubt there has been much damage to houses and crops and a certain number of cattle have been lost, but many of the ryots are very well-to-do, and the poorer ones are reaping a rich harvest in the form of high wages in connection with the works on the Railway and the canal. The wages paid by the Railway are said to be specially high, and as a consequence there has been some difficulty in securing an adequate supply of labour for the works on the canal.

6. Allusion has been made in the newspapers to the necessity of taking steps to regulate the repair of tanks in zemindaris, and much of the disastrous nature of the floods has been attributed to their having breached. No doubt the floods—especially in the valley of the Ramaleru—were aggravated by water from breached tanks, and zemindari tanks do not usually have much spent on them, but as many Government tanks breached in the same way as those in the zemindaris, it is impossible to infer, from what has happened, that the zemindari tanks were in a specially unsafe state, and the unusually heavy rainfall was quite sufficient to cause an immense amount of damage to the Railway and the canal even if the tanks had remained intact.

Resolution—dated 25th September 1895, Mis. No. 4815.

The Board begs to submit the report of its Acting Second Member on the state of the country between Bhimadole and Bezwada which was affected by the recent heavy floods.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) L. M. WYNCH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with Hon'ble Mr. Sturrock's report.

ORDER—No. 657, Revenue, dated 1st October 1895.

Miscellaneous.

The foregoing report shows that the damage caused by the recent floods has been considerable in Ellore and its neighbourhood and in parts of the Kistna district. The Government observes, however, that prompt measures were taken by the local officers to repair the damage done and to restore communications.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council notices with satisfaction that in this emergency the Chairman and the Municipal Council of Ellore rendered valuable aid.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
„ the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
„ the Public Works Department (Irrigation).
„ the Public Works Department (Railway Branch).
„ the Local and Municipal Department.
Editors' Table.

Exd. C. M. Brisson.

100 Copies.

Council had, under Mr. Moore's directions, prepared house-to-house lists of the loss experienced, and these were checked by the Tahsildar who had prepared a list of his own. At a meeting held at the Municipal office attended by the Chairman and several councillors, the Tahsildar, Mr. Moore and myself, we went through these lists and decided to sanction Rs. 2,185 to 565 persons in small sums, varying from Rs. 3 to Rs. 10, the average being just under Rs. 4. Of this amount Rs. 2,021 were disbursed on the spot. The total damage to houses and property was originally estimated at Rs. 23,000, but from the discussion at the meeting I am satisfied that this is far above the mark. The lists were drawn up within the first few days after the flood, when every thing looked desolate and miserable, and it seems often to have been overlooked that, when the mud walls of a house subside, the bamboo rafters and posts and other materials are often unharmed, and available for use once more. No accurate statistics have yet been collected with regard to the loss in the different villages of the Ellore taluk, but it does not seem to have been very great, except as regards the breaching of tanks, none of which however are of any great size. Four lives are reported to have been lost in the Ellore taluk, and the bodies of two persons drowned in the Kistna district were washed over the boundary by the Ramaleru, a stream which did much damage in the Nuzvid taluk and in one corner of the Ellore taluk. The destruction of cattle is believed to have been small, but sheep and goats are said to have suffered more severely. The eventual loss of crops depends chiefly on the area submerged by the increased volume of drainage which has flowed into the Colair lake and for which there is no speedy means of outlet.

4. On the 20th instant I rode and walked along the south bank of the canal from Ellore to Perikeed, a distance of about twelve miles. The silt deposited by the Tamaleru was being rapidly removed, and the breaches in that neighbourhood had all been repaired before I passed, and I have since learned that irrigation for six villages near Ellore is being provided by water from the Tamaleru. As I got away from the immediate neighbourhood of Ellore the evidences of exceptional floods became much more apparent, there being a very large number of small breaches with consequent great damage from scour and silt to the crops immediately adjoining the canal. The water however had soon spread itself out over the level plain, and the crops, a short distance off, were not only unharmed, but seemed in many cases to be in very good condition indeed. From Perikeed onwards, twenty-seven miles, to Bezwada, which I reached on the morning of the 23rd, the breaches were not so numerous, but they were generally larger and more serious, involving greater difficulties in their repair. As far as I could judge, however, the progress made by the Sub-Divisional officer in repairing them was very satisfactory indeed. Little or nothing remained to be done to most of them to put them into a state which would permit of the resumption of irrigation, and one very large one, about ten miles from Bezwada, had been so far closed by the morning of the 23rd that I was able to bring my horse across it. The most serious of all, viz., that caused by the Budameru, about three and-a-half miles from Bezwada, had been successfully closed by the Executive Engineer himself a few days earlier, and the water of that troublesome stream having thus been excluded, it will be a comparatively simple matter to deal with the breaches which it caused in the Ryves' canal after crossing the Ellore canal. There seems every reason to hope that both canals may be opened before the end of the month unless a recently-discovered crack in the Narasampalayam aqueduct should turn out to be more serious than is at present anticipated. Even in that case, however, the Ellore canal might be opened as far as the 25th mile and the Ryves' canal would not be affected. At present there is no immediate danger of the great bulk of the crops suffering from want of water. Those on low-lying lands have never been in danger in that way, and most of those on the higher lands have been aided by showers which fortunately were sufficient to do good to the crops, without materially interrupting the progress of the work on the breaches.

5. I have mentioned above that four lives are known to have been lost in the Ellore taluk. I regret to have to report that the loss in the Nuzvid taluk was much greater owing to the inhabitants of two villages on the banks of the Ramaleru having been taken by surprise, leading to 62 persons being swept away in one village and six in another. In the valley of the Budameru the inhabitants of low-lying villages took refuge on high ground, and I heard of only five deaths by drowning in the Bezwada taluk. At Ellore I saw Mr. Moore, the Head Assistant Collector of Gódavari, and

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 25th September 1895, Mis. No. 4815 :—

Read—the following letter from the Hon'ble Mr. J. STURROCK, I.C.S., Acting Second Member of the Board of Revenue, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 25th September 1895 :—

I have the honour to submit the report called for in your telegram of the 13th instant on the state of the country and damage by floods, between Bhimadole and Bezwada. I understand that what is required is merely a report in general terms, leaving details to be dealt with in the reports which will be submitted by the different local and departmental officers.

2. I received the telegram at Rajahmundry on my return from Bhadrachalam on the evening of the 15th, and on the morning of the 17th I went by train to Bhimadole, and thence twelve miles along the canal bank to Ellore. Navigation up to the Ellore lock had by this time been restored, though the water in the canal was still low and there was nothing to indicate that any exceptional floods had occurred, beyond the existence of recently-repaired breaches, and signs of scour and deposit of silt in their neighbourhood. The general appearance of the crops elsewhere was normal.

3. In the *Madras Mail* of the 10th September it is said that Ellore was in a pitiable condition, the water having flowed into all the houses of the town which had nearly all subsided. This description hardly applies at all to the old, and most important, part of the town to the south of the canal, but is fairly correct as regards the portions known as "Powerpett" and "D. Division" which are situated on a piece of very low-lying land to the north of the canal between it and one branch of the Tamaleru. This stream overflowed its banks early in the morning of the 6th instant, and after rushing right through the town was eventually dammed up to a depth of several feet, owing to the water being unable to find its way fast enough through the sluices in the canal bank. Under the Head Assistant Collector's directions a breach was made in the canal bank and within eighteen hours the flood water had been drained off. The statement quoted above that nearly all the houses in the town had subsided is of course an exaggeration, but it is correct as regards the mud huts of the poorer classes, and a certain number of larger houses which were not as well built as they might have been. The substantially built houses suffered little, but of course two feet of water cannot stand in a house, as it did for instance in that of the Head Assistant Collector, without causing damage to property and much general inconvenience. The owners and occupiers of houses on higher ground afforded temporary shelter to their less fortunate neighbours and food was distributed to those who required it by several of the merchants and other well-to-do inhabitants of the town. The necessity of closing the breaches in the canal and railway line has led to a very great demand for labour, and consequent rise in wages, so there is no question of distress in the sense of difficulty of obtaining food, but there are no doubt many people of the labouring classes, pensioners, peons, poor Muhammadans and such like who have not the means to provide a roof for themselves and their families and I therefore agreed with Mr. Moore, the Head Assistant Collector, in considering that small sums might be distributed from the Rs. 5,000 placed at my disposal in the Revenue Secretary's telegram of the 17th instant. The Chairman of the Municipal

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