1. Number of pages. 8
2. Date of reposit 4. 3
3. Initials of Referencer.

M.R.O. 1—32,400—22-11-30.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2254 Press Mis.

Dated 2 — 12 — 18 97

Not to be folded or roughly handled

A. Date of reposit 4.3
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32 33

Dated 4 — 12 — 1837

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Date of reprint 4.3.
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32 33

Dated 4 — 12 — 18 97

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No. 32. Read the following letter from Messrs. J. W. GANTZ, W. BOYTON, W. OAKES, JUST GANTZ, J. DUMPHY, CYRUS GRANT and J. G. FERRAND; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated Veysurpaudy, 25th November 1857.

SIR,

1. We have the honor to submit for the consideration of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, the following circumstances in regard to the Veysurpaudy Tank, the neglected state of which has been a source of anxiety to us for some time past, and has now involved us in heavy pecuniary loss, by the destruction to our property, caused by the breaching of its banks, on Sunday the 25th October last.

2. This tank is of great extent, and when full, contains a vast collection of water; it is, moreover, as we understand, a receptacle for the overflow of other tanks situated further west; so that it is absolutely necessary the banks should always be preserved in substantial repair. We regret, however, to observe that the reverse has been the case. For three years together, viz. from 1853 to 1855, no repairs were made to the Veysurpaudy Tank at all: and as, in those years, the monsoons failed, no inconvenience was experienced. But in 1856 there were heavy falls of rain; and on the 21st November of that year, the tank having been filled to overflowing, had all but burst its banks: which, however, was prevented by the timely cessation of the rain, and the opening of the Calingulah and other outlets. On this, some partial repairs were made by the Collector of Madras at our urgent request*; and in December† following, we were again obliged to request that emergent repairs might be executed, as the banks were very insecure and slight. The repairs made on these two occasions, just sufficed to avert the impending mischief.

* In a letter, dated 22nd Novr. 1856.
† In a letter, dated 11th Decr. 1856.

3. In the month of May last, we were again induced to address‡ the Collector of Madras, submitting that the banks of the tank were in a very dilapidated state, and that repairs of a *substantial, and permunent nature* were much needed, and could not with safety be longer deferred. We represented that the *southern* bank, more especially, required to be strengthened and secured, and rendered, throughout, of a uniform width and height; as, not only was it extensively injured, but it was also more insecure than the opposite bank, and more liable to be breached from the constant action of the water upon it, which rolls in heavy swells from the north, when, during the monsoon, a strong north-easterly or north-westerly breeze prevails. We referred to the then condition of the bank, as a striking proof of what are alleged, and to the imminent risk to ourselves and our property in the event of a breach; and solicited that a lining of stone might be put down along the southern bank, at those places where it was most required.

‡ In a letter, dated 22nd May 1857.

4. The repairs, however, that were subsequently made, were still partial, and, seemed to us, very indifferent and ineffective, as they were limited chiefly to the *outside* of the banks; the inside being left untouched, excepting only at places, where it was impossible to avoid them. Certain portions of the bank, on the north and east, were lined with stone at the base, but there, if such a protection were at all necessary, it was far less requisite than along the southern bank, which, as above explained, is most exposed to the action of the water. The interior of the latter, which was, for the most part, left unrepaired, presented a corrugated surface, and abounded in hollows more or less deep, the earth having been washed away thence in previous years: so that, as regards the inner line of the southern bank, it was in a hardly better condition after, than before the repairs. As may be supposed, these hollows naturally afforded the water an easier access and way through the embankment, which, notwithstanding the above partial repairs, was quite unsuited to sustain so vast a body of water as the Tank contains when full. The result has now to be told.

5. On the 25th October last, the water rose so high in the tank, and continued so to increase, that first it overflowed, and then effected so extensive a breach¶ on the *Southern* bank, that the rush from it was like that of a torrent. It soon swept away a part of the recently erected stabling on Mr. Boyton's premises, opposite to which was the breach; and then the water found its way into all the houses,

¶ About 150 feet in length.

excepting Mr. Oakes'‖ rising within them to the height of from 15 to 16 inches! The inmates of these houses were compelled, at great personal discomfort and inconvenience, to seek shelter elsewhere; and most of them have not yet been able to return in consequence of the still damp and dirty state of their houses. A part from this serious inconvenience, is the loss which we have sustained by the damage to our property, both houses and furniture, which we grieve to say is of very considerable extent.

‖ At this house the water rose to within 1¼ inch of the floor.

6. Without dilating on the risk, privation and loss—great though they be—to which we have been subjected, we would respectfully represent that we continue exposed to the recurrence of like disasters, so long as the banks of the Veysurpaudy Tank are allowed to remain in the insufficient state in which they have been for some years past. While we admit that the fall of rain§ which caused the rupture of the southern bank, was unusually heavy, we must also observe that it is by no means unprecedented; and, indeed, that *much less* rain is sufficient to bring the water into our houses, should the southern bank at any time be breached, which, from its exposed and ineffective condition, it is so likely to be. Even *without* the occurrence of such a contingency, the water *from the Tank* found its way into our grounds, more than once, during the last N. E. monsoon; and on the 21st November 1856, during a gale, and fall af rain* less by one half than that of October 1857, it nearly reached the base of the steps of some of our houses, and but for the rain ceasing, would doubtless have risen higher. This was caused by the mere overflowing of the tank on the south-western side,† where the bank has been left particularly low.

	Inches of rain.
§ 24th October 1857.. ...	4·165
25th " "	18 039
Total...	22·204

	Inches of rain.
* 20th November 1856...	5·259.
21st " " ...	6 390.
Total...	11 649.

† At this place also a breach was made by the water, on the 25th October last.

7. It will, we trust, be obvious to his Lordship in Council, from what we have stated above, that an urgent necessity exists for re-forming, and substantially repairing the southern bank in particular, of the Veysurpaudy Tank. We would submit that this bank requires not only to be raised higher, but also to be adequately widened both at the base and summit; and to be rendered uniform in its proportions all along the southern and south-western side. The raising of the bank is essential, as on the south side the land is very low; and it further requires to be adequately strengthened, as the action of the water upon it is powerful and continuous during the whole of the north-east monsoon, and is so damaging to the bank, that an inner lining of stone, from the base upwards, is indispensable to secure it from its ravages, and seems to us to offer the only security against the recurrence of such a disaster, as that to which we have been so recently exposed.

8. Whatever may be the depth of water with which the Wotary Nullah inundates the plains on the south of our houses, during heavy rains, yet, it has never been known to rise so high, or to extend so far north as to be brought into our grounds, even on those occasions when the main road was cut across, and this we are enabled to state from an experience extending, in the case of most of us, over a long series of years. On the present occasion we closely watched the progress of the water and the direction from which it came, and we have no hesitation in affirming that it was the water from the tank which inundated us, causing so much destruction of our property, and rendering our situation so unsafe and painful. So high was the rise of water on our grounds, and so slow was it in being drained away, that it was six days before it began to disappear from the Main road and neighbouring lands. A deep and wide ditch was cut across the road by the rush of water through the gate-way of the house, No. 14; and it flowed with such force through this ditch, that for several days the road was impassable, except to foot passengers who crossed with the greatest difficulty.

9. Having described the circumstances which led to these unhappy results, and indicated how they were caused, it only remains for us, respectfully, yet urgently, to solicit that Government will be pleased, now that substantial repairs to the Veysurpaudy Tank have become absolutely necessary, to issue orders for a thorough reformation and protection of the southern bank, to be carried into effect as early as possible in the ensuing year; so that we may be entirely relieved from all anxiety of mind, and effectually secured for the future, against any such serious mishap as that from which we have recently so seriously suffered.

No. 33. ORDER THEREON, No. 2254; dated 4th December 1857.

Ordered to be referred to the Chief Engineer for report.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To

H. Forbes Esqr.
Acting Secretary to Government
Revenue Department.

Sir,

1. We have the honor to submit for the consideration of the Right Honble the Governor in Council, the following circumstances in regard to the Veysurpaudy Tank, the neglected state of which has been a source of anxiety to us for some time past, and has now involved us in heavy pecuniary loss, by the destruction to our property, caused by the breaching of its banks, on Sunday the 25th October last.

2. This Tank is of great extent, and when full, contains a vast collection of water; it is, moreover, as we understand

condition of the bank, as a striking proof of what are alleged, and to the imminent risk to ourselves and our property in the event of a breach; and solicited that a lining of stone might be put down along the southern bank, at those places where it was most required.—

4. The repairs, however, that were subsequently made, were still partial, and, seemed to us, very indifferent & ineffective, as they were limited chiefly to the outside of the banks; the inside being left untouched, except only at places, where it was impossible to avoid them. Certain portions of the bank, on the north and east, were lined with stone at the base, but there, if such a protection were at all necessary, it was far less requisite than along the southern bank, which, as above explained, is much exposed to the action of the water. The interior of the latter, which was, for the most

most part, left unrepaired, presented a corrugated surface, and abounded in hollows more or less deep, the earth having been washed away thence in previous years: so that, as regards the inner line of the southern bank, it was in a hardly better condition after, than before the repairs. As may be supposed, these hollows naturally afforded the water an easier access and way through the embankment, which, notwithstanding the above partial repairs, was quite unsuited to sustain so vast a body of water as the tank contains when full. The result has now to be told.

5. On the 25th October last, the water rose so high in the Tank, and continued so to increase, that first it overflowed, and then effected so extensive a breach* on the southern bank, that the rush from it was like that of a torrent. It soon swept away a part of the recently erected Stabling on Mr. Boyton's premises, opposite

*about 150 feet in length.

Road

opposite to which was the breach; and then the water found its way into all the houses, excepting Mr. Oakes', rising within them to the height of from 15 to 16 inches! The inmates of these houses were compelled, at great personal discomfort and inconvenience, to seek shelter elsewhere; and most of them have not yet been able to return in consequence of the still damp and dirty state of their houses. Apart from this serious inconvenience, is the loss which we have sustained by the damage to our property, both houses and furniture, which we grieve to say is of very considerable extent.

6. Without dilating on the risk, privation and loss - great though they be - to which we have been subjected, we would respectfully represent that we continue exposed to the recurrence of like disasters, so long as the banks of the Veyserpandy Tank are allowed to remain

* At this house the water rose to within 1½ inch of the floor.

Inches of rain.
× 1857
24th Oct.r — 4.165
25th " — 18.039
Total 22.204

remain in the inefficient state in which they have been for some years past. While we admit that the fall of rain which caused the rupture of the southern bank, was unusually heavy, we must also observe that it is by no means unprecedented; and, indeed, that much less rain is sufficient to bring the water into our houses, should the southern bank at any time be breached, which, from its exposed & ineffective condition, it is so likely to be. Even without the occurrence of such a contingency, the water from the tank found its way into our grounds, more than once, during the last N. E. Monsoon; and on the 21st Nov.r 1856, during a gale, and fall of rain less by one half than that of October 1857, it nearly reached the base of the steps of some of our houses, and but for the rain ceasing, would doubtless have risen higher. This was caused by the mere overflowing of the Tank on the south-western † side, where the bank has

× 1856. Inches of rain
20th Nov.r — 5.259
21st " — 6.390
Total 11.649

† At this place also a breach was made by the water, on the 25th Oct.r last.

Road

has been left particularly low.—

7. It will, we trust, be obvious to his Lordship in Council, from what we have stated above, that an urgent necessity exists for re-forming, and substantially repairing the Southern bank in particular, of the Veyyerpandy Tank. We would submit that this bank requires not only to be raised higher, but also to be adequately widened both at the base and summit, and to be rendered uniform in its proportions all along the southern and south-western side. The raising of the bank is essential, as on the south side the land is very low: and it further requires to be adequately strengthened, as the action of the water upon it is powerful & continuous during the whole of the N.E. monsoon, and is so damaging to the bank, that an inner lining of stone, from the base upwards, is indispensible to secure it from its ravages, and seems to us to offer the only security against the recurrence of such a disaster, as that to which we have been so recently exposed.

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road

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9. Having described the circumstances which led to these unhappy results, and indicated how they were caused, it only remains for us, respectfully, yet urgently, to solicit that Government will be pleased, now that substantial repairs to the Teynampandy Tank have become absolutely necessary, to issue orders ~~that~~ for a thorough reformation and protection of the Southern Bank, to be carried into effect as early as possible in the ensuing Year; so that we may be entirely relieved from all anxiety of mind, and effectually secured

secured for the future, against any such serious mishap as that from which we have recently so seriously suffered.

We have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obd.t Servants

Madras,
Teynampandy,
November 25th, 1857.

J. W. Gantz
W. Boyton
Wm. Oxted.
Just Gantz
L. Dunsby
Cyrus Crouch
J. G. Fernand

No. 2254.

Ordered to be referred to the Chief Engineer for report.

[signature]

No. 2350.

From Maj. J. B. Frank U.S.A. Atlanta

Dated 25 November 1853

Rec'd [illegible]

Transmits Plans and Estimate of Public Buildings at Atlanta in 23 sheets

Requests that the Secretary of War may recommend to Congress the necessary appropriation for the completion of the Public Buildings at Atlanta by the erection of a Fireproof Building for the Clerk's Office and Records of the Superior Courts of the Northern District of Georgia.

Referred to the Committee on Public Buildings & Grounds

Dec. 1853

No 32433.

Ft. Gaines Ga.
4th Nov. 1853

Respectfully forwarded to the Chief Engr. Office

[illegible]
Lt. Col. Engrs.