M.R.O. 1—21-11-20

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2557 Press Mis.

9645

Dated 2-12-21 18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 7th December 1858.

No. 44. Read the following letter from H. D. PHILLIPS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated Vullum, 27th November 1858, No. 954.

SIR,

1. Deeming it probable the Government may desire to be informed in respect of the present consequences of a most disastrous flood from an overflowing of the Coleroon and Cauvery rivers and serious extensive breaches in their banks, I have the honor to submit a transcript of a communication which I this day addressed to the Board of Revenue.

2. I have called in aid all the energies and zeal of my several Thasildars and their immediate inferiors, for the enforcement of the Rule marginally noted, and I hope with reference to the concluding part of paragraph 6, Extract Minutes of Consultation 13th November 1858, No. 2386, that I have not placed too comprehensive or too liberal a construction on it by directing my local representatives, that having commenced work for the closing of any one breach, they are to proceed with it to a completion and not relinquish it when half or even partly done, to the Officers of the Public Works Department.

Grant's Book Page 592, Rule 82.

3. Before the occurrence of these disasters, I had been considering how efficiently to apply the Rule without creating embarrassments in accounts and otherwise. Now that these serious accidents to our sources of irrigation have happened, I am satisfied that, at least for the present, the Agency of the Revenue Officers must be unimpeded and be independent of the Public Works Department Subordinates. I have directed the Thasildars that suggestions made by the Officers of that Department whilst a work is in progress, are to be regarded by them as orders.

4. The Arzees, of which I beg to submit translations, will enable the Government to form a clear notion of the extent of some part of the disasters to which my application of the rule has reference.

Translation of an Urzee from Tahsildar of Codavassel, dated 22nd November 1858 No. 52.
Do. of do. from Tahsildar of Trivady, dated 25th November 1858, No. 113.
Do. of do. from Tahsildar of Trivady, dated 25th November 1858, No. 114.

Letter from H. D. PHILLIPS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore; to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 27th November 1858, No. 256.

SIR,

1. I regret to have to report for the information of the Board of Revenue, the occurrence of an unprecedented and most destructive inundation in Tanjore.

2. Though marked by a deficiency of rain at its commencement, the season latterly assumed a favorable appearance and the prospects of the year were highly encouraging, when on the night of the 19th it commenced to rain, on the following day, the fall was both extremely heavy and incessant and the quantity registered by the rain guage was no less than 11 inches in 24 hours*. On the 21st also there were nearly 3 inches of rain.

* 20th.

3. The consequence is that the numerous rivers and channels intersecting the Delta have risen to an extraordinary height and the volume of water passing down them being too great for retention in their ordinary limits, has breached the embankments in almost every direction deluging the surrounding country. The Coleroon which is as it were the great drainage channel of the Delta, appears to have breached its banks at several points on the Tanjore side, thus adding its enormous volume of water to the floods of the Cauvery and its numerous branches.

4. The results of these destructive floods on the Public Works, viz. roads, bridges and river embankments will, I fear, prove to be most disastrous, while the loss of private property and injury to cultivation cannot fail to be very great.

5. No accurate information, however, of the real or probable extent of loss can as yet be obtained. The country is still covered as if by one sheet of water and a further account will therefore hereafter be furnished.

6. Almost simultaneously with the occurrence of these floods, the important Town of Combaconum and its neighborhood have been disturbed by serious grain riots arising from the famine rates at which grain has been selling for some time past, a similar riot has occurred also at the Cusbab Town of Munnargoody at this moment, it is with difficulty that people are able to procure 5½ Madras measures of rice a Rupee at Vullum and the same rate with very trifling variations is generally the now ruling price.

7. I have submitted direct to Government in my capacity of Magistrate a detailed report of the occurrences connected with these disturbances.

Translation of an Urzee from the Tasildar of Codavasel, dated 22nd of November 1858, No. 52.

In consequence of the rain which unceasingly poured during the last week, every spot was covered with water and the whole living nature was out of rest. Though all the rivers were swelled with rain water yet the freshes were not so high as in the last month. In this state every precaution was taken to strengthen the banks. This morning the depth of water in the fields began to increase moment by moment in the eight* villages marginally noted: and the people in those limits, young and old felt insecure and left their houses and resorted to the high road to Velungaman, But the inhabitants of certain other villages having no egress from their huts which had been already surrounded with water too deep for walking, remained within in despair.

* Sellore.
Teroocalumboor.
Toryoor.
Manaparavy.
Thuttanoor.
Mailpulyore.
Teroocoody.
Agaravoghy.

In the streets of Agharaogay village and on the roads the water stood four feet deep; so that the people of that part have repaired to Cusba Codavasel. In order to ascertain the cause of this sudden inundation, I went out by the high roads as far as Aundancovil and Velungaman and inspected the river banks, and found no accident to the banks of Sholachoodamaniar &. Codamoorootty and took measures to strengthen them where it was necessary. But to the North of the road to Velungaman and to the Codamoorootty River there was nothing to be seen within eye-shot, but water like a sea. In questioning the travellers as to the cause, I was told that this flood was occasioned by breaches towards the west in the Vinnar or Vettar in Talooks Paurendered the more serious by the junction of the water of the breaches in other rivers. The road panasem and Velungamaun; and another in the bank of Soollanar in the latter Talook, which is from Aundancovil to Velungamaun road is covered with water 3 feet deep; and it is less in some parts as I now hear. Having received no report of the state of the said Soollanaur in my own Talook, I started with a view to ascertain it by my own personal observation; But found no way to approach it; nor could I see from a distance the bank of that river. I cannot but lament the havoc that has been made by the flood in question, no less for the destruction of the crops and of the grain stores than for the suffering of the people, who having left their dwellings already erased to the ground, are straggling with their cattle still more wretched than themselves, through water of different depths, without finding a dry spot to tread on. There is nothing in the human power to do at this time but to pray the Almighty to save the living creatures from destruction. If the freshes do not subside and the breaches in the western Talooks be not closed at an early date, the rivers in this Talook also will breach, and much loss of life and property will ensue. Therefore instructions should be sent to those Tasildars as the flow of water is becoming stronger and stronger. In consequence of those breaches several houses in the Villages belonging to Velungaman Talook have been destroyed and the majority of the inmates have sought refuge in the roads leaving their property behind, and persons of some respectability have arrived at Codavasel.

I could not but write so much on the subject having with my own eyes seen the sufferings of the people.

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Just I finished the above, a report was handed to me, apprizing me that a breach has this day occurred in the bank of the Poottaur in the limits of Trivadachairy. The report does not contain any further particulars, which having been received at 7 P. M. I would start to-morrow morning and close it: In the mean time some of my subordinates have been sent to the spot, and I request to be allowed to incur the required expenses from the funds at my disposal, for which the work accounts will be sent when the works are finished.

Translation of an Urzee from the Tasildar of Trivady, dated 25th November 1858, No. 113.

I have already reported that I was repairing to the numerous spots where breaches have occurred in this talook. I got on a raft at the street called Pookolum at Cartatangoody in Tanjore and landed near the Vennar and beg to enclose a list of the several breaches that have happened on the roads in the limits of Ramapoorum and those in the Cavery the Coleroon &c. river banks as far as they have fallen under my own observation and reported on to me.

1½ mile.

Some of these have been closed, some have been filled in and for others materials are being collected and every exertion made, deputing a sufficient number of my subordinates for each important breach.

High freshes have generally been foreseen in Ordinary seasons, but at this time the sudden and heavy showers of rain combined with the unusually high freshes from the west swelled the rivers to such an height that on the 20th Instant the Vadavar and other rivers breached and at night when the whole living nature was absorbed in sleep the streets of Cartatangoody and other places were inundated and were rendered unfordable and the roads were cut off and all communication prevented. In the afternoon of the 21st, the rivers Vennar, Vettaur, Cavery, Codamoorootty and Coleroon began to swell as if by some action from beneath and rose to 1½ and 2 yards above the highest water-mark. The river banks were over-topped and in defiance of all the exertions made by the village Officers with all the coolies available to strengthen them by means of grass plots, these unusual freshes seriously broke through the banks of the Coleroon and other rivers.

In consequence of these breaches the roads from Cartatangoody to Cundyoor and those from Trivady to Munniar and from Tanjore to Combaconum have been for the most part destroyed, and the flow of water has been very strong and in short the whole tract has been inundated, so that there is no passage from and to those places.

Almost all the breaches at the Coleroon bank were the most serious, that were ever seen during the last 60 years, of these the most important one is that at Ponavasel at a spot designated "Bava Adappoo" where the Coleroon bends to the North and makes a formidable set against the bank. This breach is very deep and not at all fordable and the stream running out of it seems to be the Coleroon itself, and being joined by the volumes of water issuing from other breaches has formed itself into a large river, and the consequence has been that the streets of the villages marginally noted were covered with water deep enough to swim in. To the same fate have been subjected some other villages in whose limits other rivers had been breached. The people were too much afraid to approach it in order to ascertain its dimensions. However I could only know these particulars by going in about to the different spots. In order to close these breaches it is very difficulty to get coolies on fair promises of due reward, as they have been engaged in removing to a comparatively high ground the materials of their own huts which were thrown down and in building others, and in drying what part they could save from the attacks of this awful element.

Ponavassell.
Thengaloor.
Seeteepleeoor.
Cullagoody.
Olatharumapettay.

Now the Coleroon has somewhat subsided and the water does not flow through certain gaps, but others being very deep and situated at spots where there are severe sets, it is essentially requisite to close them soon and all the required materials are also under collection. The minor breaches should not also be lost sight of.

Unless immediate measures are taken, there is every apprehension of more extended danger at the next rise of the freshes.

The roads too which have been very deeply cut, the roots of the avenue trees being quite visible should likewise be properly repaired; until this be done bandies cannot pass and the passengers cannot travel without much hazard, and Engineer Officers cannot ride to the spots where their visits may be required.

Were these works to be undertaken only by the Engineer Department, they cannot be completed in time, and in case of their being committed to contractors, they would not properly and strongly be carried out. Had the roads been passable I would have requested you to see at least the Coleroon breach, of which a personal observation will not fail to create a belief that it will prove a source of much danger and induce the Public Works Department Officers to think before undertaking to close it.

I am now going there.
(Signed) H. D. P. Collector.

These works should be executed strongly and at an early date and will be carried out accordingly by the Revenue Department if allowed, but while such works are under progress the interference of the Public Works Department will obstruct the progress. I therefore request final instructions on the point.

If these works were to be executed by contractors under Public Works Department without the exertion which are now required, there is no doubt that further accidents will arise. Though the Deputy Thasildars, Naut Curnums and others have been appointed at different spots and I have been myself inspecting them, yet the number of Superintendents and peons has been found to be inadequate, and I therefore request that orders may be issued directing the immediate return of the cutwals and 20 peons who have been sent to Combaconum, or the appointment of 20 peons for a short time. If the embankments of the breaching parts of the Coleroon bank were to be made by the Revenue Department, a large number of trees for props &c. will have to be brought from Trivady and other villages on carts, for which the roads are inaccessible, and even if the obstacle offered by the roads be surmounted with difficulty, the quantity of materials required is too large to be supplied from the villages in question. There are on the North-side of the Coleroon numerous trees on Porumboke lands belonging to Trichinopoly District but which trees may not, as is represented to me, be hewed without the orders of the Hoozoor; I therefore request that a letter may be written to the Collector of that District, that the necessary orders may be given to the Thasildar of Laloogody to cut down such trees as I may require.

I also request to be permitted to carry out the work of strengthening the other river banks, which having been washed are in a very dilapidated condition. There have been two breaches in the Talook Paupanassem in the limits of Keelavelengoody and Villianellore, in consequence of which the crops of certain villages in this talook have been very much damaged without any notice being taken either by the talook subordinates or by the Public Department Officers.

I have written about this to the Tasildar of that talook.

(Signed) VENKATRAYALU,
Tahsildar.

Translation of an Arzee from the Tahsildar of Talook Trivady, dated 25th November 1858, No. 114.

I have already reported to you in detail that I have visited the several breaches that have occurred in every quarter, and taken due steps to close them by deputing Officers to carry on the necessary works.

The Nattoocurnum of Rajendrapoorivoo and others who had been appointed to shut up the breaches of the Vadavar report, that while they were engaged in the work, Lieutenant Moore the Assistant Executive Engineer, and Mr. Donoghue the Assistant Overseer came to the spot at 10 yesterday morning and seeing the work under progress prohibited them from further interference, and said that it would be undertaken by their Department; and that the District Engineer also gave the same instructions, and it is also stated that 150 persons had been collected and brought this morning by the contractor for the purpose of closing the breaches; but they all dispersed as the Officers of the Engineer Department said that so many men were not required;

I have therefore herein enclosed the report of the Nattoocurnum as well as the Yadast of the Deputy Tahsildar at Tanjore on the same subject for your consideration.

I have replied to the Deputy Tahsildar that, as I have been personally ordered by you before, that any works of such importance should be carried out to the end by the same Officer who has first undertaken them, he should carry out the work thoroughly, and that I would apprize you again of all these circumstances.

When I came here I desired Mr. Donoghue in person to follow me so that we may both take proper measures respecting the breaches of this place; and it is now three days and yet there is not any possibility of his coming down even to Trivady as the road has been cut in many places, and so much covered with mud and water as to render it equally impassable for carriages and horses, and he cannot walk on foot.

Supposing that he comes, the work cannot be done soon. If when the work of closing a breach has been commenced upon by Revenue Officers, furnishing themselves with materials and labor with much difficulty, an Officer of the Engineer Department takes away the work from their hands, the coolies will naturally think that we have no authority to perform such works, and would not attend to our calls for a similar purpose; and consequently the works would be spoiled, their progress retarded, and superintendents disheartened. Besides, the responsibility of the work being divided, one half of it being carried out by revenue authorities, and the other half by Engineer's Department, it would be very difficult to ascertain the quarter to which any deficiency should be justly attributed.

Although the Engineer Department might receive the assistance from the Revenue authorities which has been ordered by the Tanjore Gazette of the 23rd Instant, the works would not still be executed so soon as they would be done by the Revenue Officers themselves. The total number of breaches that have occurred may exceed 200, of which that of the Coleroon is the most dangerous.

By breaches the Meerassidars will suffer loss, and with their loss the difficulty in the collection of the Circar revenue will increase, and therefore every care should be taken to prevent such a consequence, these considerations will not have their due force in the mind of the Officers of the Engineer Department; For an instance, although it is usual to raise the shutters of the Vadagacoody Annay as soon as the water rises 1 or 1½ feet above the Dam, the Manager had not done so until yesterday, though the water had risen to more than 3 feet above it; and when asked, he said at the same time, that he did not do so lest the Tunnel on the road should be damaged, then again that he had not attached to him as many persons as he had formerly, and lastly that Mr. Edmonds had not directed him to do so.

Mr. Edmonds is an Overseer in the Department Public Works and this irrigation sluice is under the control of P. W. D. not the Collectors.
(Signed) H. D. P. Collector.

I have advanced money for the closing up of many breaches, In order therefore that there may be no room for the Officers of the Public Works Department to make any groundless complaints, I request to be soon instructed whether the works are to be carried out thoroughly by the officers who have commenced them, or made over to the charge of the Engineer Department; and in the latter case whether such breaches as are not yet taken up are also to be left as they are, to be taken charge of by the Engineer Department.

I want also instructions as to the course I should adopt in future.

No. 45. ORDER THEREON, No. 2599; dated 2nd December 1858.

The Governor in Council approves of the measures taken by Mr. Phillips under the disastrous circumstances now reported, for carrying out to their full extent the instructions issued for the guidance of Collectors in cases of emergency.*

* Circular Order D. P. W., Rule 82 page 592.

2. These breaches that he can undertake to close without the aid of the Public Works Department he is at liberty to place entirely in the hands of his Revenue Subordinates.

3. The Governent have no doubt that independent of these there will be as much for the D. P. W. Establishment to do, as they can possibly undertake; but Mr. Phillips will place himself in communication with the Officers of that Department, and specify the repairs he is able to complete.

4. The Superintending Engineer of the Circle has already received the authority of Government, for proceeding immediately to Tanjore, and left Madras yesterday.

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No 954

Tanjore Collector's office
Tullum 27th November 1858

From

W. D. Phillips Esqre
Collector of Tanjore

To

T. Pycroft Esqre
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George

Sir

1. Deeming it probable the Government may desire to be informed in respect of the present consequences of a most disastrous flood from an overflowing of the Coleroon and Cavery rivers and serious exterior breaches in their banks; I have the honor to submit a transcript of a communication which I yesterday addressed to the Board of Revenue.

2. I have called in aid all the energies and zeal of my several Shanbogues and their immediate inferiors, for the enforcement of the Rule marginally noted, and I hope with reference

Grant's Book Page 592 Rule 82.

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commenced works, for the closing of any
one breach, they are to proceed with it
to a completion and not relinquish it when
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of the Public Works Department.

3 Before the occurrence of
these disasters, I had been considering
how efficiently to supply the Rule
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gation have happened, I am satisfied
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Agency of the Revenue officers must be
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partment whilst a work is in progress, are
to be regarded by them as orders.

The areas, of which I beg
to submit translations, will enable the
Government to form a clear notion of the
extent of some part of the disas-
ters to which my application of the
Sale has reference.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant
W. Elliot
C. Collector

Translations of Area
enquired from Tahsildars
by Collr's Circular dated
29th Novr 1858 No 572

Do Do from Tahsildar
of Tirmaudy dated 7th
Novr 1858 No 1114

Do Do from Tahsildar
of Tirmaudy dated 13th
Novr 1858 No 1113.

alt

P.W. 1858 Despatch
Dist Comr 7th December 58
Recd
From No 2966.
The Collector
of Tanjore
To
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St George
Dated 27th
Recd 2nd & 3rd Novr 58
No 954
Encls 4
Sir No 2579. 2nd Decr 1858.
Reporting the circumstances
consequent upon the insur-
rections of the Colleroon &
Cauvery rivers & intimating
that he has directed the
more subordinate Local
& Revenue Officers to
observe strictly the Depart-

From Offg Chief Engr 2nd Dist
Dated 1st Decr 58 No 3096 in Cons

No 44.

number of my subordinates for each important breach.

High freshes have generally been foreseen in ordinary seasons but at this time the sudden and heavy showers of rain combined with the unusually high freshes from the west swelled the rivers to such an height that on the 20th Instant the Vadavar & other rivers breached and at night when the whole living nature was absorbed in sleep the streets of Cartalangoody & other places were inundated & were rendered unfordable & the roads were cut off & all communication prevented. In the afternoon of the 21st the rivers Vennar, Vettaur, Cavery, Cudamoorootty & Coleroon began to swell as if by some action from beneath & rose to 1/28 2 yards above the highest water mark. The river banks were overlooked in defiance of all the exertions made by the Village Officers with all the Coolies available to strengthen them by means of grass pilots, these unusual freshes seriously broke through the banks of the Coleroon & other rivers.

In consequence of these breaches the roads from Cartalangoody to Cundyeer & thence from Trivadey to Mannian & from Tanjore to Combaconum have been for the most part destroyed & the flow of water has been very strong & in short the whole tract has been inundated & that there is no passage from & to these places.

Almost all the breaches at the Coleroon bank were the most serious, that were ever seen

all

during the last 60 years. Of these the most important one is that at Pinavasel at a spot designated "Bava Adakpoi" where the Colleroon bends to the North & makes a formidable set against the bank. This breach is very deep & not at all fordable & the stream running out of it seems to be the Colleroon itself & being joined by the volumes of water issuing from other breaches has formed itself into a large river & the consequence has been that the sheets of the villages originally noted were covered with water deep enough to swim in. To the same fate have been subjected some other villages in which limits other rivers had been breached. The people are so much afraid to approach it in order to ascertain its dimensions. However I could only

Pinavasel
Vellanguttai
Seralapattu
Cuddalore &
Kattiramapattu

know these particulars by going in about to the different stations in order to close these breaches it is very difficult to get Coolies on promises of due reward as they have been engaged in removing to a comparatively high ground the materials of their own huts which were thrown down & in building others, and in drying what part they could save from the attacks of this awful element.

Now the Colleroon has somewhat subsided & the water does not flow through certain gaps but others being very deep & situated at spots where there are severe sets, it is essentially requisite to close them soon & all the required materials are also under collection. The minor breaches should not also be lost sight of.

Unless immediate measures

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are taken there is every apprehension of more extended danger at the next rise of the freshes.

The roads too which have been very deeply cut the roots of the avenue trees being quite visible should likewise properly repaired. Until this be done Bandies cannot pass & the passengers cannot travel without much hazard & Engineer officers cannot ride to the spots where their visits may be required.

Were these works to be undertaken only by the Engineer department, they cannot be completed in time & in case of their being committed to Contractors, they would not properly & strongly be carried out. Had the roads been passable I would have requested you to see at least the Cutcherry breach, of which a personal observation will not fail to create a belief that it will prove a source of much danger and induce the Public Work Department Officers to think before undertaking to close it.

These works should be executed strongly & at an early date & will be carried out accordingly by the Revenue Department if allowed. But while such works are under progress the interference of the Public Work Department will obstruct the progress. I therefore request final instructions on the point.

If these works were to be executed by Contractors under Public Work Department without the exertions which are now required, there is no doubt that further accidents will arise. Though the Deputy Shasildars, Head Cunnoms & others have been appointed

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at different spots & I have been myself inspecting them, yet the number of Superintendants and Peons has been found to be inadequate, and I therefore request that orders may be issued directing the immediate return of the Cutwals & 20 Peons who have been sent to Cumbaconum or the appointment of 20 Peons for a short time. Of the embankments of the breaching parts of the Colleroon bank were to be made by the Revenue Department, a large number of trees for props &c will have to be brought from Sivady & other villages on Carts for which the roads are inaccessible & even if the obstacles offered by the roads be surmounted with difficulty, the quantity of materials required is too large to be supplied from the villages in question. There are on the Northside of

of the Colleroon numerous trees on Poundoke lands belonging to Shiechipoly District but which trees may not, as is represented to me, be lawed without the orders of the Collector. I therefore request that a letter may be written to the Collector of that District that the necessary orders may be given to the Tasildar of Sabougady to cut down such trees as I may require.

I also request to be permitted to carry out the work of strengthening the other river banks which having been washed are in a very delapedated condition. There have been two breaches in the Salook Pauspanam in the limits of Veela velengoody & Villianellore in consequence of which the crops of certain villages in this Salook

with water

all

have been very much damaged but
out any notice being taken either
by the Taluk subordinates or by
the Public Department officers.
I have written about this
to the Tasildar of Nuk Taluk. Sd/ Sen Sahib Ayatu
Tahsildar

(Translation).

W D Murdoch
Collector

Ca Colln

1858 Oct 16

In a letter
from the Collector
of Tanjore
to the Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St. David & Gengi

Read 27th } Nov/58

No 954.

MM 940/58

Translation of a
Petition from the Tahsildar
of Trivady dated 25th
November 1858 No 113.

too deep for walking, remained within in despair.

In the streets of Agharaopay village and on the roads the water stood four feet deep; so that the people of that part have repaired to Cuddalore Codavasel. In order to ascertain the cause of this sudden inundation, I went out by the high roads as far as Kundancoil and Velungamaun and inspected the river banks, and found no accident to the banks of Sholachoodamaniar & Codamooroolty and took measures to strengthen them where it was necessary. But to the North of the road to Velungamaun & to the Codamooroolty River there was nothing to be seen within eye shot, but water like a sea. In questioning the travellers as to the cause, I was told that

that this flood was occasioned by breaches towards the west in the Vinnar or Vettar in Talooks Paupanaseem and Velungamaun; and another in the bank of Soollanar in the latter Talook, which is rendered the more serious by the junction of the water of the breaches in other rivers. The road from Kundancoil to Velungamaun road, is covered with water 3 feet deep; and it is less in some parts as I now hear.

Having received no report of the state of the said Soollanaur in my own Talook, I started with a view to ascertain it by my own personal observation; But found no way to approach it; nor could I see from a distance the bank of that river. I cannot but lament the havoc that has been made by the flood in question no

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In

In consequence of those breaches several houses in the Villages belonging to Velungaman Talook have been destroyed & the majority of the inmates have sought refuge in the roads leaving their property behind and persons of some respectability have arrived at Codavasel.

I could not but write so much on the subject having with my own eyes seen the sufferings of the people.

Just I finished the above, a report was handed to me, apprizing me that a breach has this day occurred in the bank of the Pottaur in the limits of Iruvidachairy. The report does not contain any further particulars which having been received at 7 P.M. I would start tomorrow morning & closed it. In the mean time some of my

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my subordinates have been sent to the spot; and I request to be allowed to incur the required expenses out of the funds at my disposal; for which the work accounts will be sent when the works are finished.

(Signed) Consul Rowe
Taitoan

22d November 1858.

Translation
W. Aleiuish
Coll.

1858
Letter from Collector
Tanjore
to the Chief Secretary
to Government
Dated 29th December 58
Rec'd 31st
No 957.

Forwarding in original
Translation of an Arzee
from the Tahsildar
Coddapatee dated
22nd November 1858 No 52.

Translation of an Arzee from the Tahsildar of Talook Trivady dated 25th November 1858/114

I have already reported to you in detail that I have visited the several breaches that have occurred in every quarter, and taken due steps to close them by deputing officers to carry on the necessary works.

The Nattoocurnum of Rajendrapooroo, and others who had been appointed to shut up the breaches of the Vadavar, report that while they were engaged in the work, a Lieutenant Moore the Assistant Executive Engineer, and Mr. Donoghue the Assistant Overseer came to the spot at 10 yesterday morning and seeing the work under progress prohibited them from further interference, and said that it would be undertaken by their Department, and that the District Engineer also gave the same instructions, and it is also stated that 150 persons had been collected and brought this morning by the Contractor for the purpose of closing the breaches, but they all

all dispersed as the officers of the Engr Dept said that so many men were not required, I have therefor herein enclosed the report of the Nattoorumum as well as the Gadast of the Deputy Tahsildar at Tanjore on the same subject for your Consideration.

I have replied to the Deputy Tahsildar that as I have been personally ordered by you before, that any works of such importance should be carried out to the end by the same officer who has first undertaken them, he should carry out the work thoroughly and that I would apprize you again of all these circumstances.

When I came here I desired Mr Donoghue in person to follow me so that we may both take proper measures respecting the breaches of this place, and it is now three days and yet there is not any possibility of his coming down even to Trivady as the road has been cut in many places, and so much covered with mud and water as to render it equally impassible for carriages and horses, and he can not walk on foot.

Supposing that he comes, the work can not be done soon. If when the work of closing a breach has been commenced upon by Revenue Officers furnishing themselves with material and labor with much difficulty, an officer of the Engr Dept takes away the work from their hands, the Coolies will naturally think that we have no authority to perform such works, and would not attend to our calls for a similar purpose, and consequently the works would be spoiled, their progress retarded, and Superintendants disheartened. Besides, the responsibility of the work being devided, one half of it being carried out by Revenue Authorities, and the other half by Engr Department, it would be very difficult to ascertain the quarter to which any deficiency should be justly attributed.

Although the Engineer Department might receive the assistance from the Rev. Authorities which has been ordered by the Tanjore Gazette of the 23d Instant, the works would not still be executed so soon as they would be done by the Revenue Officers themselves. The total number of breaches that have occurred may exceed 200 of which that of the Coleroon is the most dangerous.

By breaches the Nirrassidars

will suffer loss and with their loss the difficulty in the Collection of the Circar Revenue will increase, and therefore every Care should be taken to prevent such a consequence, these Conviderations will not have their due force in the mind of the officers of the Engr Dept; For an instance, although it is usual to raise the shutters of the Vadagacoody Anicut as soon as the water rises 1 or 1½ feet above the Dam, the Managar had not done so until yesterday though the water had risen to more than 3 feet above it, and when asked he said at the same time, that he did not do so lest the Tunnel on the road should be damaged, them again that he had not attached to him as many persons as he had formerly, and lastly that Mr Edmonds had not directed him to do so.

I have advanced money for the closing up of many breaches. In order therefore that there may be no room for the officers of the P. W. Dept to make any groundless complaints, I request to be now instructed whether the works are to be carried out thoroughly by the officers who have commenced them, or made over to the charge of the Engr Dept, and in the latter case whether such breaches as are not yet taken up are also to be left as they are, to be taken charge of by the Engr Dept.

I want also instructions as to the course I should adopt in future.

Mr Edmonds is an Overseer in the D, P, W, and this irrigation sluice is under the control of P, W, D, not the Collector's

W D Maclean
Collector.

1838 Dcbr 21st
Rec'd a letter
From the Collector
of Saugeen
to the Chief Secretary
to Govern mt
Fort Wellington

Dated 21st Novemb/38
Rec'd 29th Do

Ans'd
Dec 29th

Requested him to
agree for the Lighter
Pilot Service and
27th Do/38

No 756

To

The Secretary

to the Board of Revenue

Fort Saint George

Sir,

I regret to have to report for
the information of the Board
of Revenue, the occurrence of an unu-
sual and unlooked for destruction
in the Pagoda.

2. Though marked by no peculi-
arity of sound at its commencement,
the season latterly pronounced favour-
able appearance and the prospects of
the year were highly encouraging when
on the night of the 19th it commenced
to rain - by the following day the fall
was both extremely heavy and in-
cessant - and the quantity registered
by the rain gauge was no less than
Nine inches in 24 hours - on the 21st also

there were many breaches of ruin-

3 The consequence is that the numerous rivers and channels in bursting the Dikes have risen to an extraordinary height and the volume of water passing down them being too great for retention in their ordinary limits has breached the embankments in almost every direction desolating the surrounding country. The Colonies which is east were the great drainage channels of the Delta, appears to have breached its banks at several points on the Sanjore side, thus adding the enormous volumes of water to the floods of the Cauvery and its numerous branches.-

4 The results of these inundations floods on the public works, Roads, Bridges and rivers embankments are of a most serious nature to be most disastrous, while the loss of private property & injury to cultivation cannot fail to be very great.

No.

5 No accurate information, however, of the real or probable extent of loss can as yet be obtained- The country is still covered only by one sheet of water and no further account will therefore be furnished-

6 Almost simultaneously with the destruction of these floods, the most fatal Scourge of Cholera and Fever in the neighborhood have been disturbed by

serious grain riots arising from the famine which at which grain has been selling for some time past - to similar riots has occurred also at the Custom house of Nunnagoody - but the moment it is with difficulty that people are able to procure 5/2 Indian measures of rice a rupee - at Vellore and the surrounding with very trifling exceptions is generally the now ruling price-

7 Shipmen on Equitable direct to Government in any emergency of Magistrate

a detailed report of the occurrences
connected with these disturbances

I have &c

Penjore
Tellicherry
27th Novr 58

Signed H. D. Phillips
Collector.

(True Copy)

H D Phillips
Collector

To
The Collector
Tanjore

Sir

I have the honor to forward herewith
a Memorandum
dated 27th Novr 58
on the subject of the disturbances
which have occurred in the
Pollachy Taluk

I have &c

Signed H. D. Phillips
Collector

Copy forwarded to Board
dated 27th Novr 58 for info.

C. Bell
Sec.

No 2599.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 2d December 1858

Read Letter from Coll of
Tanjore

(Mem entered 27th Nov 1858
954)

The Govt in Council
approves of the measures
taken by Mr Phillips
under the distressing circumstances now reported,
for carrying out to their
full extent the instructions
issued for the guidance of
Collectors in cases of Emergency*.

2. Those Orders that he
can undertake to close
without the aid of the
Public Works Department

* Circular Orders DPW
Rule 82 - p. 592

he is at liberty to place
entirely in the hands of
his Revenue Subordinates.

3. The Govt have no doubt
that independent of them
there will be as much for
the D. P. W Establishment
to do, as they can profitably undertake; but
Mr Phillips will place
himself in communication
from with the officers of
that Dept, & specify
the repairs ~~works~~ he is able
to complete.

4. The Supdg Engineer
of the Circle has already
received the authority of
Govt for proceeding immediately to Tanjore, &
Dept Madras yesterday

J.H.S.

R.S. Copy to Colr of Tanjore.
Dirs. for
10 — to Bg Chief Engr &
3 — to Bd of Rev
for information

Public Works 1858 Schl. No.
Exd to Govs: 7th Decr.

No. 2599.

Extract Mins of Govs:
of 2d Decr/58.

Relative to
the extensive breaches
in the banks of Cole-
roon and Canvery
Rivers.

No. 44 & 45.