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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	2587	Press Mis.
Dated	17-12-1860	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 219. Read the following Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated Chepauk, 3rd December 1860, No. 7,554:—

Read the following letter from W. M. CADELL, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to the Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Circle, dated Vallam, 12th November 1860, No. 346.

SIR,

In forwarding the accompanying communication from the District Engineer to your address, reporting the occurrence of certain breaches on river banks during the late rains, I have the honor to state that the circumstances therein represented will be carefully inquired into and the cases disposed of in due course according to their merits.

From Captain R. F. OAKES, District Engineer, Tanjore, to the Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Circle, dated Tanjore, 7th November 1860, No. 231.

SIR,

1. In continuation of my letter No. 221, dated 3rd instant, I have the honor to inform you that the following breaches are reported to have occurred in Range No. 3, near Tranquebar, during the late heavy falls of rain on the coast:—

<i>In the Nandalár.</i>	<i>Yards.</i>
1 Breach in the limits of Sandrapadi... destroyed 12 yards of road, No. 28.	... 16 × 4 which has

<i>In the Vadyár, North Bank.</i>				
1 Breach in the limits of Kanapanenlay	...	...	...	4 × 1
1 Do. do. of Karuvakattu...	...	...	...	20 × 4
1 Do. do. near new sluice...	...	...	...	4 × 2

<i>South Bank.</i>				
1 Do. east of new Vadyár Calingula...	...	...	...	50 × 8

<i>In the Kadalalyat.</i>				
1 Do. east of Soravary Calingula.....	...	...	...	6 × 5

<i>In the Openar.</i>				
1 Breach in South Bank.				
1 Do. in North Bank.				

2. With reference to the breaches near the Vadyár and Soravary calingulas, I have the honor to inform you that there is but little doubt that the banks were cut by the Mirásdárs, for as breaches have occurred annually near the wing of the former, the wing was extended this year, and the bank adjacent was made very strong indeed, and faced with Nanal, which had grown very well, and there was no indication of the slightest settlement when Mr. Assistant Over-seer Hayes examined the spot on the day previous to the occurrence of the breach. When I examined the work some weeks ago, I remarked to Mr. Hayes that the bank appeared to have been made far stronger than was necessary, for it was 4 yards at top, and from 1 to 2 yard higher than the bank in its neighbourhood, and Mr. Hayes informed me that as the bank was said to have always breached at this point, and he was of opinion that it was always cut open, he had had the bank raised, and strengthened, so as to make it the strongest portion of the whole bank to prevent the possibility of its breaching from natural causes. The bank east of the Soravary calingula was also strengthened in the same manner, and as there is no set against it, there can be but little doubt that the bank was cut open.

3. The Mirásdárs who are suspected of cutting open the banks, are those of Tiruvadakuli, Trikadvoor and Tilliadi. Cutting open the banks near these calingulas is no new thing; in the time of the Danes it was also done, and the nuisance became so great that it is stated that a Military guard was placed over each of the large calingulas in the surplus streams during the monsoons, and there are still the remains of a guard room at the wing of the Arab calingula.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17th December 1860.

One of the road coolies on road No. 23 was directed to sleep at the Vadyar calingula to act as a Kavalcar, but the night of Sunday the 21st was so stormy that he quitted his post.

4. As I have often remarked before, until the heads of villages are made responsible for the breaches within their limits, the Mirasdars will continue to cut open the banks of surplus streams to prevent the possibility of their lands being submerged, and it is impossible to calculate the loss to Government on account of these wanton acts of destruction, for when one breach occurs in a large surplus, so large a body of water is thrown into the river into which the surplus discharges itself, that the river banks are probably breached and the country is submerged, thus it was that the Openar banks were breached by the waters which escaped through the Vadyar breach.

5. I regret to inform you that the advanced southwing in rear of the Pondien Voical head sluice in the Mannar bank has been destroyed, the length of wall thrown down is 42' and its height 7'.

6. The banks of the Ivavyanar near the Korekay aqueduct are also reported to have been breached, the breaches have been closed and are being strengthened and a small breach which occurred in the Palavar in the Nadaragapuram limits has been closed by "Kudi Maramat."

7. The Sub Engineer in charge of Range No. 5 has reported that a breach has occurred in the Mulyar, owing to a cut made in the bank by the Mirasdars near the Richan Cotagam Vadapathy head sluice, which has injured the sluice and rendered its reconstruction necessary, and which has breached the road from Tritrapundi to Vadaraneam in four places. The damage to the road is small, 7 Rupees is expected to cover the cost of restoring it and of closing the breach.

8. The Mulyar has been cleared this season, and the cut is stated to have been necessary to supply the lands, as the clearing of the river is stated to have lowered its bed below the floor of the vent, this is most improbable as the river was not deepened, the silt only having been removed. The accuracy of the statement can, however, be easily verified.

9. This letter is forwarded through the Collector who has been requested to examine into the circumstances connected with the breaches in the Vadyar, Kadalalyar and Mulyar rivers.

10. For the last fortnight the weather has been bright and clear, very similar, I am informed, to what it was in 1858, and I am apprehensive, that the monsoon will burst over the District as it did in that year and undo much that has been done to remedy the injuries which occurred in 1858.

Submitted for the information of Government, with reference to endorsement, No. 6,870, dated 10th November 1860. The Chief Engineer begs to call attention to the practice of cutting open the banks of rivers and channels in the Tanjore District, and to the necessity of strong measures being taken to prevent such wanton injury to Government property, entailing as it does, considerable outlay for repairs.

(Signed) W. H. HORSLEY, Lieut.-Colonel,
Chief Engineer.

No. 220. ORDER THEREON, 17th December 1860, No. 2,587.

The Government resolve to call upon the Collector of Tanjore to report without delay through the Board of Revenue, what he has done in the matter of the alleged cutting of banks by Mirasdars

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Tanjore Collector's Office
No. 346. Vallam 12th November 1860.

From Mr. M. Sadell Esquire
Collector of Tanjore
To The Deputy Chief Engineer
Southern Circle.

Sir,
In forwarding the accompanying communication from the District Engineer to your address of 7th instant No. 231, I beg to report the occurrences of certain breaches on river banks during the late rains. I have the honor to state that the circumstances therein represented will be carefully enquired into and the cases disposed of in due course according to their merits.

I have, Sir,
Signed M. M. Sadell
Collector.

Southern Circle

District Engineer's Office
No. 231 of 1860/61. Tanjore 7th November 1860.

From Captain R. F. Oakes
District Engineer, Tanjore.
To The Deputy Chief Engineer
Department of Public Works

Public

Sir,
In continuation of my letter No. 221, dated 3rd instant I have the honor to inform you that the following Breaches are reported to have occurred in Range No. 3 near Tranquebar during the late heavy falls of Rain on the Coast. —

In the Sandalar

1. Breach in the limits of Sandarpradi — 16 x 4
which has destroyed 12 Yards of Road No. 28.

In the Vadyar North Bank

1. Breach in the limits of Kanaganur — 4 x 1
1. Do Do of Kaimakattu — 20 x 4
1. Do Do Near New Sluice — 4 x 2

South Bank

1. Do East of new Vadyar Calingula — 50 x 8

In the Kadilalyat

1. Do East of Saravary Calingula — 6 x 5

In the Orenar

1. Breach in South Bank
1. Do in North Bank.

2. With reference to the Breaches near the Vadyar and Saravary Calingulas I have the honor to inform you that there is but little doubt that the Banks were cut by the Mirdas, for as Breaches have occurred annually near the Wing of the former; this Wing was extended this year, and the Bank adjacent was made very strong indeed, and faced with stone, which had grown very well and there was no indication of the slightest Settlement when Mr. Assistant Overseer Hayes examined the spot on the day previous to the occurrence of the Breach. When I examined the

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work some weeks ago. I remarked to Mr. Hayes that the bank appeared to have been made far stronger than was necessary, for it was 4 Yards at top, and from 1 to 3/4 Yards higher than the Bank in its neighbourhood, and Mr. Hayes informed me that as the Bank was said to have always been at this point, and he was of opinion that it was always cut open, he had had the Bank raised, and strengthened, so as to make it the strongest portion of the whole Banks to prevent the possibility of its breaching from natural causes. The Bank East of the Saravary Calingula was also strengthened in the same manner and as there is no set against it, there can be but little doubt that the Banks was cut open.

3. The Mirdas who are suspected of cutting open the Banks, are those of Lim: vada Kuli, Trichadyoon and Illiadi. Cutting open the Banks near these Calingulas is no new thing: in the time of the Danes it was also done, and the nuisance became so great that it is stated that a Military guard was placed over each of the large Calingulas in the surplus streams during the Monsoons and there are still the remains of a guard room at the Wing of the Arab Calingula. One of the Road Coolies on Road No. 28 was directed to sleep at the Vadyar Calingula.

Calingula to act as a Kavalcar, but the night of Sunday the 21st was so stormy that he quitted his post. - ... 7' of rain fell on the 21st.

4. As I have often remarked before, until the Heads of Villages are made responsible for the Breaches within their limits, the Mirasidars will continue to cut open the Banks of surplus Streams to prevent the possibility of their lands being submerged, and it is impossible to calculate the loss to Government on account of these wanton acts of destruction, for when one Breach occurs as a large Surplus so large a body of water is thrown into the River into which the surplus discharges itself, that the River Banks are probably breached and the Country is submerged. Thus it was that the Oopenar Banks were breached by the waters which escaped thro' the Tadyar Breach. -

5. I regret to inform you that the advanced Loath Ming in rear of the Pondicherry Head Sluice in the Mannigar Banks has been destroyed. The length of Wall thrown down is 42' and its height 7'.

6. The Banks of the Syuvyanar near the Morekey Aqueduct are also reported to have been breached. The Breaches have been closed and are being strengthened and

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a small Breach which occurred in the Palavar in the Nadarajapuram limits has been closed by "Kudai - Maramat".

7. The Sub Engineer in Charge of Range No. 5 has reported that a Breach has occurred in the Moolgar, owing to a cut made in the Bank by the Mirasidars near the Pichan Colagam Vadapathy Head sluice, which has injured the sluice and rendered its reconstruction necessary and which has breached the Road from Tirupundi to Nadaraneam in four places. The damage to the Road is small. 7 Ropes is expected to cover the cost of restoring it and of closing the Breach. -

8. The Moolgar has been cleared this season, and the cut is stated to have been necessary to supply the lands, as the clearing of the River is stated to have lowered its bed below the floor of the Vent. This is most improbable as the River was not deepened, the Silt only having been removed. The accuracy of the statement can, however, be easily verified. -

9. This Letter is forwarded thro' the Collector who has been requested to examine into

into the circumstances connected with the Breaches in the Vadyar, Kadalalyar, and Moollayar Rivers.

10. For the last Fort-Night the Weather has been bright and clear, very similar, I am informed, to what it was in 1858, and I am apprehensive, that the Monsoon will burst over the District as it did in that Year and undo much that has been done to remedy the injuries which occurred in 1858.

I have Yr

Signature P. F. Oakes Captain
District Eng^y Tanjore.

N^o 7551.

Submitted for the information of Government, with reference to endorsement, N^o 6870, dated 10th November 1860. The Chief Engineer begs to call attention to the practice of cutting open the Banks of rivers and channels in the Tanjore District and to the necessity of strong measures being taken to prevent such wanton injury to Government Property, entailing as it does, considerable outlay

for

for repairs.
Central Office of P.M.
Chepauk 3rd December 1860

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Lieut. Colonel
Chief Engineer P.M.

Lt Lieut. Col.
P.M. Chief Engineer

To
J. D. Sims, Esq^r,
Acting Secretary to Govern^r
Department of Public Works,
Fort St. George.

E. M. Miller

