M.R.O. 1—77,000—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 8

(2) Date of repair 28/4

(3) Initials of the Reference

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1546 Press Mis/

240-61

Dated 13-8- 1861.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th August 1861.

No. 240. Read the following Endorsement of the Chief Engineer, dated Chepauk, 1st August 1861, No. 3,373 :—

Read the following letter from Captain J. STODDARD, Acting District Engineer, Godavery, to Captain F. H. RUNDALL, Acting Deputy Chief Engineer, Northern Circle, dated Dowlaishwaram, 24th July 1861, No. 226.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report for the information of the Chief Engineer, that the Godavery River came down in one of those very extraordinary freshes, which occur at long periods (the last was in 1849), on the 18th instant.

2. The water rose 6 feet 10 inches between 6 P. M. on the 17th, and the same hour on the 18th instant, and continued rising till 10 P. M. on the 20th when, by the Dowlaishwaram Register it stood at 29′ 3″. It was then considerably above the Rajahmundry Register. It began to fall but very slowly at 11 P. M. on the 20th.

3. On the 19th morning, I went across to Vizaiswaram to see if all was safe there, I found it so, with the exception of one of the head sluice shutters which had been burst in, and the consequent rush of water was acting obliquely on the river bank between the head and Under-sluices and was undermining it. This action was soon arrested by cutting down some trees and forming a groyne which deflected the current into its proper course. Unfortunately, in the course of that day, and following night, two more shutters were burst in, and the water below the head sluices by next morning (the 20th) rose to the height of 12¾ feet on the floor. This was reported to me late on Saturday evening, the state of the river rendering communication impossible except by means of steamers. Early on Sunday morning (the 21st) I crossed over in the steam tug "Frank and Ada" with a large boat in tow, carrying 50 tons of stone. I also took with me some bamboo baskets (similar to those used so successfully in closing the breach in the Anicut in 1859), with the intention of throwing them in front of the vents which had lost their shutters. On arriving at Vizaiswaram I found the water was standing at 14¾ feet inside the head sluices, and 22½ outside, I threw in five baskets full of stone, but two of them were broken to pieces in an instant, three remained.

4. I should have persevered in throwing in baskets, had I not discovered that the greater part of the water which was flowing into the Apparon Channel, and raising its level so fast, was coming down by the large natural drain which runs parallel with the west bank of the river, known as the Cuddama Cálva, I believe. By this drain an enormous body of water was flowing down into the Apparon Canal below the Vizaiswaram Lock. There was a large breach in the river embankment about ¾ of a mile above the Lock, through which also a great deal of water was flowing into the said drain. This breach bore every appearance of having been made, as the embankment was high, and being given to understand that the inhabitants of the villages on the river bank, such as Widapalli, Maddoor, Covoor, &c., were rejoiced at the water submerging their lands (which they said it had not done since 1849, and that they were deteriorating in fertility in consequence), and moreover, having myself seen three or four Widapalli villagers cutting the embankment in another place about ½ a mile above the breach just mentioned, I am of opinion that it was intentionally made.

The quantity of water which was escaping through this breach however, was but an insignificant portion of what was coming from higher up, and inundating for miles the land on the west side of the Godavery, from Maddoor up to Polaram (as I subsequently noticed). I was told by several persons, that the main body of this water was coming down from the head of the Cuddama Cálva near Polaram, and that there was a breach in the embankment near the village of Chidipee (two miles below Kalapoody) through which a great deal of the water of the Godavery was escaping into the Cuddama Cálva also.

5. I therefore proceeded in a steamer to ascertain the fact, and if possible to take steps towards closing the breach, if there were one at Chidipee. I left this yesterday morning (23rd) and proceeded along the west bank of the river as far as Kadapoody. The steamer could not go further owing to the terrific current, which must have been running at the rate of 7 miles an hour at least. There were two breaches, one above and one below the village of Aurungabad, I should say they were both made in order to let the water go over the land, as some of the Lascars of this Department had seen some of the inhabitants of this village cutting the embankment the day before, and there was no reason apparently why the embankments should have given way at those places, as they were quite as high as at any other part. There were also two breaches near Kalapoody, one above and one below the village as at Aurungabad, which looked as if made either to benefit the land or save the village, which is situated on the brink of the Godavery, and is unprotected by any embankment. At Chidring I observed several very wide gaps in the river embankment through which the water was tearing towards the Cuddama drain. The cause of the embankment failing here, as far as I could learn from the villagers whom I questioned on the subject, was that the water of the Godavery had reached it on both sides (on

the west side it had come from above Polaram they said), and the fresh being so very unusually high, the water aided by the rain and wind overtopped the bank and breached it. These breaches cannot be closed till the river falls sufficiently to get earth to do so.

I was sorry the steamer could not proceed as far as Polaram, as all agreed that by far the greater portion of the water coming down the drain was from above that village.

6. There can be no doubt, I think, that had the waters of the Godavery not found vent through all the above breaches and drains, they would have risen several inches higher at Dowlaishwaram and gone over the head locks, probably doing much injury to them. The Munsif of Kalapoody, one of the oldest inhabitants, assured me, that this was only the third time during his life that he had seen the Godavery in such a high fresh, the last time being in 1849. Most providentially there was no storm at the time as on that occasion, otherwise the loss of life and property would have been very great indeed. As it is, I hear that an innumerable quantity of cattle have perished in the flood.

7. As regards the effects of the flood on our own works, I regret that I cannot give much information as owing to extensive breaches in the Godavery embankment in the Central Delta, and the breaches and consequent inundation of the Western Delta, all communication from Gunnaram and Martair have been interrupted for the present.

From Chittipett whither I sent a paddle boat, I hear that the bridge and piers of the calingulah had been washed away on the 20th instant.

Delta Superintendent, R. Harris, also informs me, that the Yerra Cálva was coming down very strong, but that the Nundamer lock and aqueduct were all safe up to 5 P. M. on the 21st instant, since which date I have heard nothing more. As the water had begun to abate before that hour, I trust that no more damages than breaches in the banks of the several canals by the flood will have to be reported.

I am uneasy about the great aqueduct at Gunnaram, but hope nothing serious may happen to it although it must have been completely submerged for some days if it is not still so. The river now (12 noon) stands at 24 feet 6 inches.

I may mention that some travellers who left Nárasapúr day before yesterday (22nd) by boat, informed me last night at Vizaiswaram that the Palcole canal including the locks was all safe, but that the country for miles round was inundated.

8. I shall address you again as soon as I receive authentic information of the effects of the flood. I am about proceeding just now myself into the Western and Central Deltas.

9. The Eastern Delta works are, I believe, quite safe. There is rather more water going down the Cocanada canal (7'-3" on head sluices), but the head of water is still too great to permit of the closing of any more shutters.

10. On the 19th, 20th and 21st, the town of Dowlaishwaram was in imminent danger, but I am thankful to say that our exertions to avert it were successful. The Officer Commanding Sappers and Miners sent down a large working party, who chiefly contributed to the safety of the town. Mr. Moncrieff, Sub-Engineer Veerainah, and most of the Workshop employés also worked unremittingly on the embankment which protects the town.

Submitted for the information of Government with a remark that a Telegram, dated 29th July 1861, was received from the District Engineer reporting that no injury had been sustained to any of the masonry works throughout the Delta, and that the breaches in the river embankment were all the damage that had occurred to the works.

1 Telegram.

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

No. 241. ORDER THEREON, 13th August 1861, No. 1,546.

Copy of this report will be furnished to the Collector of the Godavery District, and his attention drawn to the alleged cutting of the banks of the river by the villagers. These complaints should be promptly enquired into and the offences, if proved, duly punished.

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

Godavery District
Engrs Office Dowlaiswaram
24th July 1861.

No. 226.

From

Captain J. Stoddard
Asst. Dr. Engr. Godavery

To

Captain J. H. Rundall
Asst. Dy. Ch. Engr. Madras

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Chief Engineer that the Godavery river came down in one of those very extraordinary freshes which occur at long periods (the last was in 1849) on the 18th Instant—

2 The water rose 6 feet 10 inches between 6 P.M. on the 17th and the same hour on the 18th Instant, and continued rising till 10 P.M. on the 20th when, by the Dowlaiswaram Register it stood at 29'-3". It was then considerably above the Rajahmundry

Rajahmundry Register. It began
to fall but very slowly at 11 PM
on the 20th.

3. On the 19th morning, I went
across to Vejaiseveram to see if all
was safe there. I found it so, with
the exception of one of the Head
Sluice Shutters which had been burst
in, and the consequent rush of
water was acting obliquely on
the River bank between the Head
and Under Sluices and was under-
mining it. This action was born
arrested by cutting down some trees
and forming a groyne which deflected
the Current into its proper Course.
Unfortunately in the Course of that
day and following night 2 more
Shutters were burst in, and the water
below the Head Sluices by next
morning (the 20th) rose to the height
of 12½ feet on the flow. This was
reported to me late on Saturday
evening, the state of the River rendering
Communication impossible except
by

by means of Steamers. Early on
Sunday morning (the 21st) I crossed
over in the Steam Tug "Frank and Asa"
with a large boat in tow carrying
50 Tons of Stone. I also took with
me some bamboo baskets, similar
to those used so successfully in
closing the breach in the Annicut
in 1859, with the intention of throwing
them in front of the vents which
had lost their Shutters. On arriving
at Vejaiseveram I found the water
was standing at 14½ feet inside the
Head Sluices and 22½ outside,
I threw in 5 baskets full of stone,
but 2 of them were broken to pieces
in an instant. 3 remained.

4. I should have preserved
in throwing in baskets, had I not
discovered that the greater part of
the water which was flowing into
the Apparon Channel, and raising
its level so fast, was coming
down by the large natural drain
which runs parallel with the
west

west bank of the River, known as the Cuddama Calva, I believe. By this Drain an enormous body of water was flowing down into the Apparau Canal below the Vizanichveram Lock. There was a large breach in the River embankment about 3/4 of a mile above the Lock thro' which also a great deal of water was flowing into the said Drain. This breach bore every appearance of having been made as the embankment was high, and being given to understand that the inhabitants of the villages on the river bank, such as Wadapilly Mudtoor, Cooor &c., were rejoiced at the water submerging their lands (which they said it had not done since 1849 and that they were deteriorating in fertility in consequence) and moreover having myself seen 3 or 4 Wadapilly Villagers cutting the embankment in another place about 1/2 a mile above the breach just mentioned, I am of opinion that it

it was intentionally made.- 7H

The quantity of water which was escaping thro' this breach however was but an insignificant portion of what was coming from higher up, and inundating for miles the land on the West side of the Godavery, from Mudtoor up to Polaram, (as I subsequently noticed). I was told by several persons that the main body of this water was coming down from the head of the Cuddama Calva near Polaram and that there was a breach in the Embankment near the village of Chitikee (2 miles below Sholapoody) thro' which a great deal of the water of the Godavery was escaping into the Cuddama Calva also.-

5. I therefore proceeded in a Steamer to ascertain the fact, and if possible to take steps towards closing the breach, if there were one at Chidipee. I left this yesterday morning (23rd) and proceeded along

the

the west bank of the River as far as Pradapordee.- The Steamer could not go further owing to the terrific Currents which must have been running at the rate of 11 miles an hour at least.- There were 2 breaches, one above and one below the village of Aurungabad I should say they were both made in order to let the water go over the land, as some of the Coscars of this Department had been sent to the inhabitants of this village cutting the embankment the day before, and there was no reason apparently why the embankments should have given way at these places, as they were quite as high as at any other part. There were also 2 breaches near Polaporam one above and one below the village as at Aurungabad, which looked as if made either to benefit the land, or save the village, which is situated on the brink of the Godavery

Godavery, and is unprotected by any embankment. As I was observed several very wide gaps in the River embankment thro' which the water was tearing towards the Cudama Drain. The cause of the embankment failing here, as far as I could learn from the Villagers whom I questioned on the subject, was that the water of the Godavery had reached it on both sides / on the west side it had come from above Polaram they said / and the freshes being so very unusually high, the water aided by the rain and wind overtopped the bank and breached it.- These breaches cannot be closed till the river falls sufficiently to get earth to do so.-

I was sorry the Steamer could not proceed as far as Polaram, as all agreed that by far the greater portion of the water coming down the drain was from above that village.-

6. There can be no doubt, I think that had the waters of the Godavery not

not found vent thro' all the above
breaches and drains, they would have
risen several inches higher at Dowlaiswerum
and gone over the head Locks, probably
doing much injury to them.- The
Brahmin of Thalaparthy one of the
oldest inhabitants assured me, that
this was only the 3rd time during
his life that he had seen the Godavery
in such a high freish, the last time
being in 1849- Most providentially
there was no storm at the time as
on that occasion otherwise the loss
of life and property would have
been very great indeed.- As
it is, I hear that an immerable
quantity of Cattle have perished in
the flood.-

As regards the effects of
the flood on our own works, I regret
that I cannot give much information
as owing to extensive breaches in
the Godavery embankment in
the Central Delta, and the breaches
and consequent inundation of the

the Western Delta all Communication
from Gunnavaram and Mortair have
been interrupted for the present.-

From Chittipett whither I sent
a paddle boat, I hear that the
bridge and piers of the Calingulabo
had been washed away on the 20th
Instant.-

Delta Superintendent N. Parra
also informs me that the Yerra
Calva was coming down very
strong, but that the Dowlaiswerum
Locks and Aqueduct were all
safe up to 5 PM. on the 21st Instant
since which date, I have heard
nothing more.- as the water had
begun to abate before that hour. I
trust that no more damages
than breaches in the banks of the
several Canals by the flood will have
to be reported.-

I am uneasy about the Locks
Aqueducts at Gunnavaram, but hope
nothing Serious may happen
to it tho' it must have

bear

been completely submerged for some days
& it is not still so.- The river now (12 hours)
stands at 24 feet 6 inches.-

I may mention that some
travellers who left Kurnaapore day
before yesterday (20th) by boat informed
me last night at Vizianeveram that
the Polavle Canal including the Locks
was all safe, but that the Country
for miles round was inundated.-

8. I shall address you again as
soon as I receive authentic information
of the effects of the flood.- I am about
proceeding just now myself into
the Western and Central Deltas.-

9. The Eastern Delta works are
I believe, quite safe.- There is rather
more water going down the Cocanada
Canal (17-3" on Road Sluice), but the
head of water is still too great to furnish
of the closing of any more shutters.-

10. On the 19th 20th and 21st the
town of Vizianeveram was in imminent
danger, but I am thankful to say
that our exertions to avert it were

successful.- The Officer Commanding
Sappers and Miners sent down a
large working party, who chiefly
contributed to the safety of the Town.
Mr Macneill, Sub Engineer Veeramah
and most of the Workshop employees
also worked unremittingly on the
embankment which protects the Town.-

13.H

Gorawry District
& Engineer Office
Vizianeveram
24th July 61

I have &c.
(Sd) H. Haddard Captn
Actg Dt Exp Engr

No 3373

Submitted for the information
of Government with a Remark that
a telegram dated 29th July 1861 was
received from the District Engineer
reporting that no injury had been
sustained to any of the masonry
works throughout the Delta

and.

Tele Telegram

and that the breaches in the River
embankments were all the damage
that had occurred to the works.—

Central Office 1st Pr
Chepstow
1st August 1861

W. R. Woodley Lt R.E
Chief Engineer

F. W. R. Captain
Ag. Dy. Gen. Engrs Wks

To
S. L. Smith Esquire
Secy: to Govt 1st Br
Pont St George

E. 177

From the Chief Engineer
7 Sept. 1861 No 2036 in

No 240 & 241-

8 Aug. Rg.

P. W. 1861 Despatch
Pro: Govt for Aug. 1768.
From Lt Col. H. St. Barclay
Chief Engineer
to J. D. Sm. Esquire
Secy to Govt Ma

Dated 1st Augt 1861
Recd 2d Augt 1861
Encl.
No 3373

Submits letter from the Dr Engineer Godavery reporting occurrence of an extraordinary high freshe in the Godavery River.
Letter and Order
No 1546. 13th Augt.

No 1546.

Copy of this report will be furnished to the Collector of the Godavery district and his attention drawn to the alleged cutting of the banks of the river by the villagers. Such complaints should be promptly enquired into and the offenders, if proved, duly punished.

13 Copies
Chief Engr
with Encl. Dispatch
Collr Godry Distr

Jt Secy to Govt
13th Augt 1861.