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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

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N^o 1057.

Sup^r: Engineer's Office 6th D^{ist}
Camp Sapanasum 12th August 1864

From,

Captain J. Bean R.E

Off^r: Sup^r: Engineer 6th D^{ist}.

To,

Major J. H. M. Shaw Stewart R.E

Deputy Secretary to Government

P. W. D.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter dated 25th July 1864 N^o 860 on which Government Order N^o 2208 dated 2nd August 1864 was passed, I have the honor to report that I have been unable to obtain from all the Ranges of this Division, as yet, an accurate list of the breaches and damages which occurred from the late very high fresh in the Cauvery River and of the approximate cost of repairs, but I deem it right to make Government acquainted with the general results of the flood without waiting for the above information.

2 The flood rose 6' and 6.3" on the Northern and Southern branches of the Upper Coleroon Aricut, and this was not only one of the very highest on record but the fresh was peculiarly remarkable from its having remained at

at very nearly the same high level for 4 or 5 days consecutively.

3 I have had no reports from the Tahildars of the Trichinopoly District, but the list of breaches received from these officers in Tanjore amount to upwards of two hundred in number, but only a few of these breaches are of any magnitude, the majority being small. In Trichinopoly District, N. I. Range, Captain Palmer reports 8 breaches in the North Bank and 6 breaches in the South bank of the Coleroon. The Supervisor in charge of N. III Range including 60 miles of the North bank of the Coleroon River, reports that the country in the neighbourhood and the adjacent villages were entirely flooded, and that the bank throughout was breached. The height of this bank is not very great but, owing to the length, the cost of repairs will be considerable.

I have already received Estimates for two portions, one for the bank bordering the dry lands amounting to Rupees 11,700, and the other for the bank surrounding the new cultivation from the Ponaiy Channel amounting to Rupees 5650.

4 I shall report on this second Estimate shortly and submit a sketch of the locality. It is to be regretted

when

when the Ponaiy Irrigation project was just being elaborated and the ryots were excavating the distributing channels and taking up 1000 Cawnies, as I am told, of new cultivation, that the flood should have burst in and destroyed the young crops. The Supervisor reports that the Coleroon River and Ponaiy Channel, at the head, were one sheet of water, and the banks of the former were not to be seen, the only means of moving about the adjacent fields being by boats.

5 To the west of the District, I have heard of no large breaches in either bank of the Canvey, but of extensive damages throughout which will cost a considerable sum to put in order.

6 In the Tanjore District the principal breaches occurred in the Arsalan, Godamorry, Vennar, Vedar, and Trimulrajan Rivers. I have inspected some of the principal ones which have, I am glad to report, been closed. The largest breaches in the District will cost from 1500 to Rs 1000 to shut up. The waters of the Canvey, by a breach near Triviar, which I have seen, burst through the main road running past the

northern limits of the District, and then branched through the road from Tanjore to Trichinopoly into the Annam Navigation Channel, which also in consequence was branched.

The Arsalan River branched at 2 spots above the Bridges thrown across it on the roads from Comincomuni to Tanjore and to Nedamangalam, and the flood waters thus diverged cut up these lines of communication completely, and prevented any traffic on them for some days. I attribute these disasters in a great measure to the inadequacy of the water way of these Bridges, and at the lower of these structures the amount of passage afforded for the flood waters may be judged of when I state that the river was level with the Parapet Cornices. In fact, the Bridge acted as a syphon sluice. Until the question, however, of regulating the heads of the Tanjore River by Masonry Dams is decided, it will be premature to propose any alterations to these Bridges.

There have been dangerous breaches also in the Tennar and Vittar Rivers in the Tanjore Taluk, and the Nemellum Taluk has suffered

56
suffered from the Trimmajon and Arsalan, as well as other rivers, bursting their banks. There has been one area of 80 yards in the stream in the Taluk of Chennay.

I have just heard that persons between the shore of the body of the river Arsalan, in the section of the river, have been carried away, and this is scarcely to be wondered at considering that the work was only just completed and not thoroughly dry, when a flood rising 6 feet over the Arsalan came down, and has continued to this date, leaving over the Crown, though in a diminished degree. I saw the Arsalan just before its completion and the work was excellent, but the flood has most probably removed the granite stones on the Crown and then has worn away the new brick and Chunan masonry below it, which was not properly consolidated.

10
As regards the means at my disposal to meet those unforeseen emergent works, I had the balances shown in the margin available for River bank repairs at the date of the flood.

Tanjore — 50,800
Trichinopoly — 3,700

In

11 In Trichinopoly District, Captain Palmer has asked for 12,000 Rupees to close his breaches and repair his banks, and Mr. Fraser has applied for Rupees 2500. for one estimate alone. Supervisor Dalasoondrum has applied, as shown in paragraph 3, for Rupees 17,350, but Government may consider it unnecessary to spend all this sum at once. In the fourth and last range Mr. Brotnahan has sent no report, but the banks of the Camiveri within his limits have been weakened throughout. I have already received Estimates for sanction from the District to the extent of the available balance of allotment.

12 In Tanjore, I have not been able to calculate the exact requirements as regards funds, but the balance, ^{being disposed} will be quite insufficient to meet them. Already I have received Estimates for emergent works amounting to Rupees 13,000, and there are a very large number to follow.

13 I have enjoined strict economy in the preparation of these Estimates, but it must be borne in mind that the floods have not only caused these breaches but have swept away large extents of bank, which must be strengthened and protected to avoid

Tanjore — Nil
Trichinopoly, 9,660

70
avoid the occurrence of further breaches. The balances, also, under the head of "Irrigation Canals" are too small, as shown in the margin, to admit of any transfer.

14 Under these circumstances I trust Government will be prepared to advance me, either by a transfer from another Division or by special grant, a sum of 40,000 Rupees, the moiety to be applied to each District and expended on Repairs under the head "Agricultural" and "Communications". A detailed list of names and cost of works required will be sent hereafter.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant

Yours Captain R.E.

Off: Sup: Engineer, 6/4/9

The Govt will await the receipt of the detailed list promised in the concluding para.

Chepauk 20/11/94

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