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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3235-	Press
216-217	Mis.
Dated 11-11-	1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th November 1864.*

No. 216. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. ANDERSON, R. E.,
Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to
Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp Bezwadah, 2nd November 1864,
No. — :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report that a severe storm occurred last night at Bezwadah and in the neighbourhood, which has occasioned considerable damage both to Government and private property, and, I regret to add, a serious loss of life.

2. It blew hard from the westward during the afternoon; but the wind veered round, and settled strong from north-east near midnight, and continued in that direction for some hours, reaching its greatest intensity at from 2 to 3 this morning, after which it gradually changed to east.

3. I note the damage that has occurred, so far as it has yet come to light, in the order that it came under my own notice.

4. The avenue trees along the Nizampatam, Masulipatam and Ellore Canals are much destroyed; the telegraph wire spanning the Kistna has snapped on the Seetanagaram side, apparently at the suspension post, and the wires on the Madras, Calcutta, Hyderabad, and Masulipatam lines are broken in many places; two dredges have sunk; also four iron punts; five flats; six small boats; two ferry flats sunk, one only to water level, a third stranded on the under-sluice apron; one mail paddle boat sunk; one capsized on the anicut apron; two navigation boats sunk at Bezwadah, and two others in the first reaches of the Masulipatam and Ellore canals; also a considerable number of dhonies in the river.

5. Of the Government boats above mentioned the dredges will be easily righted, as they have sunk in the canal, not in the river; the flats and small boats will also be recoverable; one of the four iron punts, all of which were in the river, sunk at her moorings and can be raised without difficulty; the others broke adrift, and the spots where they foundered have not been discovered.

6. The Store and Workshop buildings have been materially injured, and various small sheds have been entirely destroyed. The huts also, where most of the quarrymen reside, were blown down entirely, and many persons, chiefly women and children, have been buried in the ruins. The exact number is not known, but between 25 and 30 are missing, and 13 corpses have already been found. Two men who held by one of the iron punts to the last are also missing, and it is supposed they were drowned.

7. Several casualties have also occurred in the villages, and it is reported that a serious loss of life has occurred on one of the navigation boats, but this is not yet authenticated.

8. None of the navigation boats plying from Bunder and Ellore to Bezwadah have arrived to-day, and there is reason to suppose that many of them besides the two I have mentioned, have met with accidents; and it is also probable that some of the iron punts on the Masulipatam and Nizampatam canals have sunk; but there has been no intelligence beyond the 12th mile up to this time, nor is it known to what extent the storm has prevailed at Masulipatam or in the other parts of this District.

No. 217. ORDER THEREON, 11th November 1864, No. 3,235.

Ordered to lie over, pending the receipt of a further report, which the Government look to receive from the Superintending Engineer at an early date.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 3235

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Chapman

11th Nov/64

Superintending

Engineer

Dec 11th 1864

P. O. 16th Nov/64

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From the Supergr

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Referring to the

may caused by severe
storm which occurred on the
22nd at Begunah and
in the neighborhood

216. 217

3235-11th Nov/61

W. H. B. 1861