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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 103 Press Mis.

214-15

Dated 11 1 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th January 1867.

No. 214. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Tanjore, 28th December 1866, No. 1,143 :—

1. I have the honor to inform you that the north-east monsoon has been very heavy in the eastern talooks of the Tanjore District, especially in November and early in December, the damage that has been done has been comparatively trifling except in the Sheally Talook, where the banks of the South Rajah Voical were much injured, and the Colleroon bank in the Sarasvathivelagum limits was taken in reverse and breached. Six feet of water is said to have been standing over the country immediately in rear of the bank before the breach occurred, and there is but little doubt that the bank was cut to discharge the surplus water. The river being low, the water was soon discharged, and no injury to crops resulted from the breach, which may be closed for Rupees 150 or 180.

2. The mud wall recently put up round the Roman Catholic Burial Ground has been almost entirely destroyed. The site of the Burial Ground is low, and extends up to paddy fields, and hence the wall or its foundations were constantly wet, and standing on alluvial deposit, succumbed to the heavy rain. The position is not suited for a mud wall, and an estimate for enclosing the Burial Ground with a wall of brick in chunam or of brick in mud and plastered or pointed, will shortly be submitted.

3. In three places slight settlement has taken place in the recently built wall round the salt enclosure at Negapatam.

1865.

It would appear that these portions were built in a great measure on earth recently raised in levelling the site ; Rupees 15 or 20 will cover the restoration of the wall.

4. The Jetty at Negapatam, taken in reverse by the waters from the inland drainage, has suffered, but to what extent I could not judge ; I shall inspect it again shortly, and will submit an estimate for the repairs which may be required.

5. I regret to report that the Steam Dredge, which was anchored in the Cadooviaur, dragged her anchors and bumped on the south bank. She was, however, again secured near the bank, when a large body of water from the drainage of the low plateau south of the river pushed her into mid-stream, where she sunk in about seven and a half feet of water. We managed to raise her on the 20th instant, and her machinery is now being cleaned. Two very small holes were found in her bottom, but I cannot but think that she was sunk by water entering by the dead lights, when she was beared over almost on to her side by the water from the inland drainage. The dead lights ought to have been closed, and the water she took in from the continued rain ought to have been pumped out of her. The Rango Officer was absent at the time of the catastrophe, and Mr. Moore who is in charge of the dredge, though not by any means wanting in intelligence, appears to have lost himself on this occasion.

No. 215. ORDER THEREON, 11th January 1867, No. 103.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 48.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

The rivers being low, the water was soon

No 1143.

Supt Engineer's Office 6th Div
Tanjore 28th December 1866

From.

Captain R. F. C. Oakes R.E.
Superintending Engineer 6th Circle

To.

Colonel C. A. Orr R.E.
Secretary to Govt P.W.D.

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that the N.E. Monsoon has been very heavy in the eastern Taluqs of this Tanjore District especially in November and early in December, the damage that has been done has been comparatively trifling except in the Shiraly Taluq, where the banks of the South Rajah Vaicaly were much injured, and the Collerown banks in the Saraswathinelagunn limits was taken in reverse and breached. 6' of water is said to have been standing over the Country immediately in rear of the banks before the breach occurred, and there is but little doubt that the banks was cut to discharge the surplus water. The rivers being low, the water was soon

discharged, and no injury to crops resulted from the breach, which may be closed for Rupees 150 or 180.

2 The mud wall recently put up round the Roman Catholic Burial ground has been almost entirely destroyed. The site of the Burial ground is low and extends up to paddy fields. and hence the wall or its foundations were constantly wet and standing on alluvial deposit, succumbed to the heavy rain. The position is not suited for a mud wall, and an Estimate for enclosing the Burial ground with a wall of bricks in Chunam or of bricks in mud and plastered or pointed, will shortly be submitted.

3 In three places slight settlement has taken place in the recently built wall round the Salt enclosure at Degapatam. It would appear that these portions were built in a great measure on earth recently raised in levelling the site, Rupees 15 or 20 will cover the restoration of the wall.

1865

4 The Jetty at Degapatam is now in reverse by the waters from the inland drainage has suffered, but to what extent I could not judge; I shall inspect it again shortly and will submit an Estimate for the repairs which may be required.

5 I regret to report that the Steam Dredge which was anchored in the Cadooniaur dragged her anchors and bumped on the South bank. She was however again secured near the bank when a large body of water from the drainage of the low plateau South of the River pushed her into Mid Stream, where she sunke in about 7½ of water. I was managed to raise her on the 20th Instant and her Machinery is now being cleaned. Two very small holes were found in her bottom, but I cannot but think that she was sunke by water entering by the dead lights, when she was heared over almost on to her side by the water from the inland drainage. The dead lights

lights ought to have been closed, and the water she took in from the continued rain ought to have been pumped out of her. The Range Officer was absent at the time of the catastrophe, and Mr. Moore who is in charge of the Dredge, tho' not by any means wanting in intelligence, appears to have lost himself on this occasion.

I have the honor to be
Your most Obed.t Serv.t

W. F. Baker Capt. R.E.

Asst. Engineer in charge

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Deed

Recorded Sept 10th 1867
at 10 o'clock A.M.