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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 185 Press ~~Mis.~~

376-77

Dated 19.1 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
19th January 1867.

No. 376. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department :—

Recording Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, giving cover to certain correspondence submitted by the Collector of Bellary regarding the breaching of an important tank in that District in the rains of October 1866. } (Here enter 15th January 1867, No. 124.)

No. 377. ORDER THEREON, 19th January 1867, No. 185.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 81.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 3rd Division.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

the " bill" to recover the money from the ryots ; so I adopted a similar course in this instance, and I think it was well I did so, for last night it rained in torrent for hours.

2. Yesterday afternoon I got information of three leaks having broken out in Pattacottah-chervoo tank bund, and I at once came here with Mr. Day. One of them is stopped, and I am digging into the bund, to try and stop the largest of the two, which is, I am sorry to say, increasing in size very rapidly ; but I am very short of hands, the ryots will not assist me in the least, they were not even present all the morning, although I ordered them to be so, and they will not send a single cooly ; the Reddy of the village is absent, and I fear that, owing to this cause, I shall not be successful, as the tank is so full, (one foot over the calingulah,) and the leak commences I fear very near the bottom.

3. I have the honor to request that you will inform the Collector of this, and also of the fact, " that the bund is, if possible, in a worse state from the same cause than the Gooty bund." Not long ago I pointed the holes out to the Tahsildar, K. Nursinga Row, in person, who promised to see that they should be properly filled up, but not one of them has been touched ; the result is that if we have another night's rain like the last, the bund will in all probability go.

4. I have sent off to Guntacull and the villages for wudders and work people, and will do all I can to save it. But I hope that the ryots will receive some punishment for, should this tank breach, it will endanger the Yerratimmaraj tank, which is rapidly filling.

From J. L. WILSON, Esq, C. E., Assistant Engineer, to the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, dated Camp at Pattacottachervoo, 5th October 1866, No. 109.

1. With reference to my letter of yesterday's date, I am sorry to have to report of the non-success of our efforts, in stopping the leak owing *entirely* to the ryots refusing to assist, giving as their excuse, that they had no mamuties and no straw ; owing to the exertions of the Revenue Inspector,* I obtained four of the ryots, and some half-burnt, and putrid hill grass, which was of no use whatever. I kept the people at work until I saw it was dangerous to human life, to remain longer, and a short time afterwards it burst. No exertions were spared to save it. With the exception of about two hours, I was on the work the whole day.

* Madava Row.

2. I have now sent for the ryots, who I must mention this morning, when there was not the faintest hope of closing the breach, offered their services, and had *plenty of mamuties* and straw. Had they done this when I ordered them yesterday morning, I am certain I could have saved the tank ; when the ryots come, I shall order them to form a ring bund as soon as the water subsides, and have told the Revenue Inspector to see that it is made properly, and will send in an estimate for the repair of the breach as soon as measurements can be taken ; in the meantime, the water is flowing into the Yerratimmaraj tank, which is perfectly safe. I cannot speak too highly of the conduct of Mr. Day, who was twice in the greatest danger. The Revenue Inspector also gave all the assistance in his power.

3. The number of yesterday's letter was 108 ; my Office not being up, I could not give it.

P. S.—I have just received information that the sluice has vanished ; it is now also raining heavily.

Translation of Arzi, No. 157, *dated* 12*th October* 1866, *of the Tahsildar of Adony (lately Tahsildar of Gooty).*

1. I beg to submit my reply to your remark, appended to a copy of a letter from Mr. Wilson, Assistant Engineer, in charge of the Gooty Range.

2. In the month of July, or about that time, Mr. Wilson and myself left Gooty to Patta-cottahchervoo, with the view of inspecting the line through which the rail road is to pass. We got up the bund, and walked along it together for some time. There was no need for him to point out to me the ruts that were there, as I could see them just as well myself. And if I had observed any small ruts, I would have at once given verbal orders to the ryots for their immediate repair, and would have afterward issued written instructions on the subject ; certainly, I would never have treated the matter with indifference. As I am now in this talook, I am not in a position to detail the circumstance attending it. There certainly were not any ruts of a description that would cause a breach of the bund.

3. Had the professional people, the Department of Public Works, carefully inspected all such old works, examined the stone-work of the bund ; this being the more necessary, as the season is one of rain, and had executed the necessary repairs at Government expense, there would have been no such occurrence as the breach of a bund. I would leave it to you to judge of a conduct which neglects the execution of such works under the excuse that works of every description should be undertaken with the assistance of ryots, and which attributes the occurrence of damages like this to the repair of ruts by ryots.

4. Owing to the recent rain-fall being unusually heavy, the tank received rather a super-abundant supply (as Mr. Wilson himself has stated in his letter) ; and as the bund is rather old, the breach in all probability is due to its incapacity to resist the force of water, but certainly not to ruts on the top of the bund.

5. When I was at Gooty, I inspected the bund of as many tanks as I could, and got all minor ruts repaired with the aid of the ryots. All references regarding the orders issued by me on the subject to the Range Revenue Inspectors and the villagers are at Gooty.

6. I regret that, as I am now not at Gooty, I cannot personally inspect the spot, and ascertain and report what caused the breach.

(Signed) K. NURSINGA ROW,
Tahsildar of Ad...

(True Translation)

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

Memorandum.

1. Forwarded for the information of the Superintending Engineer. It would appear from this communication, that there were not cracks in the bund, otherwise the Tahsildar would have had them repaired without being told thereof : again, he seems to admit that there were narrow cracks on the upper portion of the bank, but that these were not the cause of the breach.

Translation of Arzi, dated 12th October 1866, from the Tahsildar of Adony.

2. With regard to what was the cause of the breach, it would appear from Mr. Wilson's letter, to have arisen from a leak, which, in regard to its having had to be dug into in order to stop it, could not have been on the top of the bund ; moreover, it is said to have been very near the bottom.

3. Without an inspection of the locality, it would be impossible to say that a crack in the upper portion of a bund was connected with a leak, which had to be dug into, to be stopped, and while filling in the upper crack, worn by weather or traffic, seems to be the duty of the ryots, the proper inspection of the bund, and examination of its interior, would appear to be the duty of the professional department. The Collector begs that the Superintending Engineer will give the subject his best attention, for it is incorrect, upon principle and practice, to allow of responsibility being misplaced or shifted.

4. The Collector is generally of opinion, that if a tank bund is in a very unsafe condition, it is the duty of the professional officer to bring it to the notice of the Collector for not superficial, but thorough repair, and that an emergent estimate should be framed for the purpose, and if necessary, acted upon in anticipation of sanction.

BELLARY,
15*th October* 1866.

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

No. 251. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd January 1867, No. 5 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Camp at Anantapur, 10th December 1866, No. 247.

1. I have the honor to bring to the notice of the Board of Revenue certain correspondence regarding the breach of an important tank in this district in the rains of last October.

2. The Superintending Engineer sent to me, for perusal, two letters addressed to him by Mr. Wilson, Assistant Engineer, reporting the danger and subsequent breach of the Pattacottahchervoo tank, which was entirely ascribed to the neglect of the ryots, and, indeed, primarily of the Tahsildar, for not attending to a verbal communication made to him on the subject. On the receipt of the Tahsildar's explanation, who repudiated the verbal communication, I addressed the Memorandum to the Superintending Engineer.

Copies herewith, Nos. 1 and 2.

No. 3.

No. 4.

3. I also requested that important communications on the dangerous state of the irrigation works should be recorded in writing, and in future, addressed to the Collector. On the 30th ultimo, I inspected the tank breached, and forward extract of my diary. I bring this subject before the Board, in order that blame for the failure of a work should not be imputed to parties innocent of the same. There are often small cracks on the top of a bund, caused by the shrinking of the surface material, and quite unconnected with internal leaks. To attribute a breach of a bund, when the water never rose within six feet of the top, to slight cracks on the top, observable on many bunds perfectly sound, and to ruts, when there were no signs even of traffic, or to rat holes, which, if they existed, would seem to have been confined only to a small section of the bund, which burst, when the face of the bund is protected by courses of stone, when the breach occurred continuously in the same place, and apparently in the foundation of the bank, which must have been further weakened by being dug into, when the tank had just filled with water, when earth of a gravelly nature, and not good clay, had been laid over rock, where, being the main sluice, the water was deepest, and the pressure greatest, and with a large tunnel running through the bank, and so far diminishing its solidity, I cannot think was supported by the facts.

No. 5.

From J. L. WILSON, Esq., C. E., Assistant Engineer, Department of Public Works, to the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, Bellary, dated Camp at Pattacottahchervoo, 4th October 1866.

1. After the heavy rains which fell on the night of the 2nd, inspected the bund of the Gooty tank, and found it in a very dangerous state, owing entirely to the ryots not having filled in the ruts and rat holes ; I sent for the Serishtadar in charge, and told him it must be repaired before night, as the barometer was still falling ; he said he would give orders to the ryots, but had no power to enforce it. On Mr. Hathaway's inspecting it after the breach last year, and a similar state of things having been pointed out to him, he ordered Mr. Day to put on coolies, and to send on

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 15th January 1867.

Extract from the Collector's diary.

30th November, Pattacottahchervoo, from Bellary 42 miles.—Inspected its breached tank which gave way in the late rains, owing, as the Assistant Engineer Mr. Wilson wrote,* to the bund being out of order from rats and rat holes. From a careful inspection of the breach, I came to a quite different conclusion. Mr. Day, the Overseer, who was present when the villagers reported a leak, informed me that it took place quite low in the outer bank. The water did not, and in fact could not, rise to within six feet of the top of the bund. Its highest level was shewn by the wrack deposited. It is not likely that there were any rat holes below the water line, nor could any ruts on the top have affected the leak below, nor were there ruts, or signs of traffic, on the bund at all. The bank, or bund, is situated on a rocky foundation, and it was between that, and the superstructure of gravelly earth, that the leak doubtless occurred. *From a section of the breach.*—I observed a distant line between the foundation and the bund. I consider the breach due to faulty construction. This tank, I am told, has been breached four times in the same place, the last time ten years ago; the foundation should have been protected by a masonry wall, which should have been founded in the rock; earth will not unite with rock; when repaired, this protecting foundation wall should be built across the inner side of the breach, and extend beyond it for some distance. The whole of the tunnel and cistern of cut stone have been carried away, and a deep hole at base of the bund has been excavated by the water: a considerable extent of cultivable land has been torn up and destroyed. The ayacut† of the tank is 309 acres (Circar), assessment Rupees 1,589, and 233 acres, the average cultivation, assessment 1,486; an upper sluice was constructed by Captain Fisher, at a cost of Rupees 1,030; but it seems to have been a useless outlay, as no land has been cultivated by that upper channel, and, indeed, the tank does not take water enough for extra cultivation besides its ayacut. The tank cannot be repaired, nor indeed an estimate prepared, until the water (a small stream at present passing through the breach,) is turned off, directed this to be done, and the water diverted to the other sluice. This tank ought not to have breached; it has a fine calingulah quite sufficient for the egress of the water, some sixty yards long, well made, with an apron. The tank is not a very large one, and the depth on the bund was about twelve feet, the breach occurring invariably in the same place is a direct evidence of faulty construction, and neither the ryots nor the Revenue authorities should have been blamed by Mr. Wilson, for a calamity which resulted from a want of skill and forethought in the original construction of the work, and in its subsequent repair.

* In letter, dated 8th October, to the address of the Superintending Engineer, copy of which was received with a slip, dated 8th idem, from that Officer.

† | | Inam. |
|---|---|
| Acres ... ... | 103 |
| Assessment ... ... | 733 |

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

Submitted for the consideration of Government, in the Revenue Department. It appears to the Board that the fact of the tank having been breached four times at the same spot is conclusive against the supposition that the ryots' neglect of minor repairs led to the damage on this occasion.

No. 252. ORDER THEREON, 15th January 1867, No. 124.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

J. Grole

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Department Public Works.
Exd. S. T. Augustin.

P W 1867 Depse
Pro. of Govt 15 January
No 155
Pro. of the Madras Govt
in the Revenue Depse

Dy 15" Jany/67
Recd 17" Jany/67

No 124

Recording Pro. of the Board of Rev: giving Copy & Captain Correspondence submitted by the Collector of Bellary regarding the breaching of an important tank in that District in the rains of Oct/66

13 Dec/66 Nos 219-220.

Lil

Copy

Dated 3 Dec

Part 21 Paper
19 Jan 1867

Lr to Govt
dated 21st Jan 1867

No 376-377

Etc 185-19 Jany 1867
William Oslee