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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 177 Press Mis.

378-74

Dated 18 1 1870.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 378. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Tanjore, 11th December 1869, No. 1,055 —

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, on the 18th ultimo, a very heavy flood came down the Ambravatty river, and the water in the Cauvery rose from five feet* and five inches on the 17th, to ten feet and five inches on the 18th. At the same time there was heavy rain throughout the district, and rain had been falling almost daily previously for some days, and so the ground was saturated, and absorbed but little water

* At Cauvery head.

2 The rain-fall at Negapatam gauged 25".7 in November, of which 6".15 fell from the 15th to the 17th, and 2".31 from the 12th to the 14th

3. The rain-fall at Tanjore throughout November was 11".82, of which 3".37 fell on the 17th, and 1".2 on the 16th.

4. The Cauvery and its branches, which, with the exception of the Vennaur, receive comparatively little local drainage, escaped uninjured

5. The channel which suffered most was the Anunda Cauvery, which has its head at the Cutchamungalum Anicut, and which receives the drainage of about 130 square miles; no less than 18 breaches occurred in this channel which runs close to the Vennaur which here is unembanked, the padugay being very high but little injury was, therefore, done by the breaches the cost of closing which will be Rupees 565 a surplus calingulah in the Vichalore limits is reported to have been destroyed. There is a large surplus dam—the Chenavari—at the point where the large jungle stream formed by the drainage from the basin of about 130 square miles meets the Anunda Cauvery, and for all ordinary occasions, this and the Vichalore calingulah are sufficient. On extraordinary occasions it is well that the channel should breach where it does, as the minimum of injury is done by its breaching at this locality, as there are no banks to take in reverse, and the distance between the Anunda Cauvery and the Vennaur is from 200 yards to a quarter of a mile.

6. The waters of the Vennaur and Vettaur were much swollen by the water which passed across the Anunda Cauvery and rose above the padugay, which it has never done since 1858, doing no injury however. A small breach occurred in the Vennaur to the east of Needamungalum owing to a sluice having given way; details regarding it have not been received; the breach has been closed. A breach of four yards occurred in the Pamaniyaur only above the padugay level, and was easily closed.

7. The water in the Vettaur—the great drainage stream of the district—rose unprecedentedly high, and was very nearly breaching the banks in the Nagacoody limits in the Nannilum Talook. The water rose above the crown of the bridge on Road No. 35.

8. Some injury was done to the minor drainage channels, especially in the Tritrapoondi Talook, which lies very low, owing to the height of the water in the main streams which prevented the water brought down by the minor drainages from passing off. Road No 15† was breached in this manner for a length of 24 yards owing to the Vennaur being unable to receive the drainage from the lands

† From Needamungalum to Combaconum

to its south: as it is proposed to metal this road at no distant date, flood-arches will be provided where, during the late floods and heavy rain, it was found that water accumulated above the road.

9. A breach in the Nundalaur near Tranquebar, and one in the Munniyaur from the Palavaur in the Sheiali Talook, have been reported; both these are drainage streams.

10. The Vadavaur, which receives the drainage of about 50 square miles, breached towards its tail in two places; the cost of closing the breaches will be about Rupees 150. The Vadavoor tank, into which the Vadavaur falls, had a narrow escape owing to a sluice in the tank bank having given way; the sluice has been closed.

11. Considering that a ten and-a-half feet flood is regarded as the maximum safe flood in the district, and that the waters of the Vennaur and its branches were swollen by very heavy rain, I think we have had a very fortunate escape Had the Cauvery proper and the Iyaur come down in flood on the 18th, as well as the Ambravatti, the disasters of 1858 would have been repeated; as it is the damage done can probably be made good for Rupees 1,200 or 1,500 independently of the masonry works adverted to above which have been injured, but the extent of the injury to which cannot be ascertained at present.

12. The roads in the delta have been much cut up owing to the constant state of moisture in which they have been kept by the rain, but on the whole they are not nearly so bad as might have been expected.

No. 379 ORDER THEREON, 18th January 1870, No. 197.

IRRIGATION, No. 16.

THE Government learn with satisfaction from this letter from the Superintending Engineer of the 6th Division, that the high freshes of the Cauvery in November have occasioned but trifling damage in Tanjore, and they rely upon the continued efforts of Captain Oakes in carrying out such works as will tend, year by year, to lessen the risk of damage from breaches in the river embankments, or of accidents to sluices and works of regulation. The Government attach much importance to the persevering and intelligent prosecution of such improvements as will render the Tanjore delta safe in floods such as have, in former years, occasioned so much loss both to the State and the people, and they are assured that Captain Oakes' intimate knowledge of the circumstances of the river will enable him to carry out the works still required in the most efficient and economical manner.

(True Extract)

To the Superintending Engineer

Fd J Wright

Superintending Office 6th Division

No. 1055 Tanjore 11th December 1869

From,

Captain A. F. Oakes R.E.
Superintending Engineer, 6th Division

To,

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

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that on the 18th ultimo a very heavy flood came down the Ambravatty River and the water in the Cauvery rose from 5.5" on the 17th to 10.5" on the 18th. At the same time there was heavy rain through-out the District and rain had been falling almost daily previously for some days and so the ground was saturated and absorbed but little water.

The rain fall at Negapatam gauged 25".7 in November of which 6.15" fell from the 15th to the 17th and 2".31 from the 12th to the 14th.

The rain fall at Tanjore throughout November was 11".82 of which 3".37 fell on the 17th and 1".2 on the 16th.

The Cauvery and its branches, which, with the exception of the Vennaur, receive comparatively little local drainage escaped unscathed.

The Channel which suffered most was the Arunda

the Anunda Cavery which has a head at the Culekamungalum Anicut and which receives the drainage of about 130 Square miles, no less than 18 Breaches occurred in the Channel which runs close to the Vennaur which here is unembanked the Paingay being very high but little injury was thereby done by the Breaches the cost of closing which will be Rs. 565 a surplus calingula in the Vedalore limits is reported to have been destroyed There is a large surplus Dam, the Chenaur, at the point where the large junge's stream formed by the drainage from the basin of about 130 square miles meets the Anunda Cavery and for all ordinary occasions of this and the Vedalore Calingula are sufficient: on extraordinary occasions it is well that the channel should breach where it does as the minimum of injury is done by its breaching at this locality, as there are no banks to take in reverse and the distance between the Anunda Cavery and the Vennaur is from 200 yards to a ¼ of a mile.

The waters of the Vennaur and Vellaur were much swolen by the water which passed across the Anunda Cavery and rose above the Paingay which it has never done since 1858, causing no injury however

A small breach occurred in the Vennaur to the east of Sreedamungalum owing to a sluice having given way, details regarding it have not been received, the breach has been closed. a breach of 4 yards occurred in the Pamanyaur only above the paingay level and was easily closed.

The water in the Vellaur the great drainage stream of the District rose unprecedentedly high and was very nearly breaching the banks in the Nagacoody limits in the Nemmelem Paling The water rose above the crown of the Bridge on Road No 35

Some injury was done to the minor drainage channels especially in the Pitrapoondi Paling which lies very low, owing to the height of the water in the main streams which prevented the water brought down by the minor drainages from passing off

Road No 15 was breached in three manner for a length of 24 yards owing to the Vennaur being unable to receive the drainage from the land to its south; as it is proposed to metal this Road at no distant date flood arches will be provided where, during the late floods and heavy rain, it was found that water accumulated above the Road

A breach in the Nendalaur near Tranquebar and one in the Munnyaur from the Palavaur

Vadavaur in the Shevaroy Range have been repaired both these are draining & cleaned.

The Vadavaur which receives the drainage of about 50 square miles branches towards its head in 2 places the cost of closing the branches will be about Rs. 150. The Vadavaur Tank into which the Vadavaur falls had a narrow escape owing to a Sluice in the Tank bank having given way the Sluice has been closed.

Considering the 6 ft. flood is regarded as the maximum rate of flood in the District and that the waters of the Vennaur and its branches were swollen by very heavy rain I think we have had a very fortunate escape. Had the Canery proper and the Sqaur come down in flood on the 18th as well as the Ambravatti the disasters of 1858 would have been repeated; as it is the damage done can probably be made good for Rs. 12 or 1500 independently of the Masonry Works ordered to be done which have been injured but the extent of the injury to which cannot be ascertained at present.

The Roads in the Cavilla have been much cut up owing to the constant state of moisture in which they have been kept by the rain but on the whole they are not nearly so bad as might have been expected

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obed. Servt.

J. F. Baker Capt. &c
Supg. Engineer 6 Divn

Dublin Martello Upstairs.

No 197

Proceedings of the Marine Committee

Under date the 18th January 1870

Read the following

From Mr. Superintending Engineer

& H.E. No 1035 of the December last

To Chairman

Enclosing Statement from Mr

with extract from his

letter from the Superintendent

Engineer of the N.E. Division;

- of the High Floods of the

January in November last

received last Saturday da.

- may be in Longue, and May

- help upon the embankments

Reports of Castlemartin Parties

on

P. 1869 Dublt
No. 197 18th January
From Dec. 5221

The Surveyor Engineer
6th Division

To
The Secretary Board
P. W. &.

Date 21st
Rec'd 4th December 1869
No. 1055

Reports Re
occurrence of Breaks
in certain Rivers in
Tanjore caused by the
High floods.

No. 197 - 18th January 1870
Mint Vice Secretary

No. 378

c. 18 recd 1869 D. 3121

in carrying out such works as will tend, year by year, to lessen the risk of damage from breaches in the river embankments, or of accidents to sluices and works of re-gulation. The Government attach much importance to the persevering and in-telligent prosecution of such improvements as will render the Tanjore District safe in floods such as have in former years occasioned so much loss both to the

State and the people, and they are assured that Captain Oakes' intimate knowledge of the circum-stances of the river will enable him to carry out the works still required in the most efficient and eco-nomical manner.

Ltr. 15/12/69

To
The Suptg. Engr.
& Secy.
Regd 22/12/69

Cuc 5228

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Superintending Engr.
6th Circle

Dated

Read

18th January 1870 No 177

Nos. 378-379

Forwarding Papers connected with the letter from the Supdg Engr. of the 6th Circle regarding the damages caused by the high floods in January in the Cauvery in Tanjore.

C. 18th Jan 1869 R. 31st