M.R.O. 1—10,006—28-2-50.

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(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

pub. works. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 3271 Press

~~B.P. No.~~ 326-27 ~~Mis.~~

Dated ೪-11-೧೯೭೪ 195 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 326. Read the following letter from Captain J. PENNYCUICK, R.E., District Engineer, North Arcot, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Vellore, 29th October 1874, No. 2,088 :—

I REGRET to have to report the occurrence of serious damage to various works in this district from the floods of the last few days.

2. I had proceeded to Madras on the 23rd instant on the leave granted me in the *Gazette* of the 25th August 1874, but on hearing that injury was being done by floods, returned by the first opportunity and resumed charge of the district.

3. The bridge over the Palar between Vellore and the Railway station gave way on the morning of the 27th; sixteen arches have already fallen, and at least two more will have to be removed if they do not fall of their own accord.

4. All communication between the town and the railway was impossible during the 27th, but yesterday it was found practicable, though difficult, to cross by means of rafts, and I and others got over in this way.

5. Although the water has fallen considerably, the rush through the bridge is still too great to enable it to be approached with safety, and no examination of the fallen arches can be made for the present. A detailed report of the nature, extent, and (if ascertainable) cause of injury will be submitted as soon as possible. I fear however that more arches will go if the river rises again, as the fallen masonry has regularly dammed up the bed towards the left bank, and there is now a very strong set of the current in the direction of the right bank. The bridge consists of 42 arches of 43 feet span.

6. The Palar anicut has breached at the middle of the stream, and about 200 yards are said to have been carried away. The water rose to 14¼ feet on the sill of the head sluices, being 9 inches higher than the maximum during May 1872, and would doubtless have been higher still if the anicut had not given way.

7. The Caveripauk channel, from the Palar anicut, has breached, and the water from it falling into the Govindavady channel has carried away the greater part of the work done towards the restoration of the St. Andrew's bridge which fell last October.

8. The Poiney anicut is reported as "seriously injured," but no further details have been received.

9. From Arnee I have received no intelligence as yet, but I greatly fear that the Cheyaur anicut has suffered; the water was 15 feet above the sill of the sluices on the 26th, and as this is 3 feet above the maximum previously recorded, it is almost impossible that the head works should have escaped serious injury.

10. I have as yet heard of the breaching of but three tanks, of which only one, the Poondy tank, is of importance, but news of others is certain to follow.

11. For the present my intelligence is almost entirely by telegraph, no letters having been received for four days. It is not clear why this should be so, as communication with the Railway was perfectly practicable yesterday morning, and there is no conceivable reason why the mails should not have been brought over by noon.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
19th November 1874.

12. Such further report as may be necessary will be made hereafter; it is obvious that these disasters, following so close upon those of the early part of the year, will put a very severe strain upon the department, but Government may rely upon every effort being made by the Public Works Officers for the mitigation and repair of damages.

13. A copy of this report has been forwarded to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

P.S.—Since the above was written a few letters have been received, but the only information of importance is contained in a demi-official from the Collector, who informs me of the destruction on the 26th instant of the bridge on the Bangalore road over the Palmanair river, three miles from the town of that name.

No. 327. ORDER THEREON, 19th November 1874, No. 3,271.

IRRIGATION, No. 38.

ORDERED to be recorded pending further detailed report.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

No. 2088. North Arcot

District Engineer's Office

Vellore 29th October 1874.

From

Captain J. Pennycuick R.E.

District Engineer

North Arcot

To

Colonel G. W. Walker R.E.

Secretary to Government

Public Works Department

Madras.

Sir

I regret to have to report the occurrence of serious damage to various works in this District from the floods of the last few days.

2. I had proceeded to Madras on the 23d Instant on the leave granted me in the "Gazette" of the 25th August 1874, but on hearing that injury was being done by floods, returned by the first opportunity and resumed charge of the District.

3. The bridge over the Palar between Vellore and the Railway Station gave way on the morning of the 27th; sixteen arches have already fallen

fallen, and at least two more will have to be removed if they do not fall of their own accord.

4. All communication between the town and the Railway was impossible during the 27th, but yesterday it was found practicable, though difficult, to cross by means of rafts, and I and others got over in this way.

5. Although the water has fallen considerably the push through the bridge is still too great to enable it to be approached with safety and no examination of the fallen arches can be made for the present. A detailed report of the nature, extent, and (if ascertainable) cause of injury will be submitted as soon as possible. I fear however that more arches will go if the river rises again as the fallen masonry has regularly dammed up the bed towards the left bank, and there is now a very strong set of the current in the direction of the right bank. The bridge consists of 42 arches of 43 feet span.

6. The Palar Anicut has breached at the middle of the stream and about two hundred yards are said to have been carried away. The water rose to 14½ feet on the sill of the head sluices, being nine inches higher than the maximum during May 1872, and would doubtless have been higher still if the Anicut had not given way.

7. The Cavery pak channel from the Palar Anicut has breached, and the water from it falling into the Govindavady channel has carried away the greater part of the work done towards the restoration of the Saint Andrew's bridge which fell last October.

8. The Poney Anicut is reported as "seriously injured" but no further details have been received.

From

9. From Arnee I have received no intelligence as yet, but I greatly fear that the Cheyar Anicut has suffered; the water was fifteen feet above the sill of the sluices on the 26th; and at this it three feet above the maximum previously recorded; it is almost impossible that the headworks should have escaped serious injury.

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12. Such further reports as may be necessary will be made hereafter; it is obvious that these disasters following so close upon those of the early part of the year will put a very severe strain upon the department, but Government may rely upon every effort being made by the Public Works Officers for the mitigation and repair of damages.

13. A copy of this report has been forwarded to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obed.t Servant.
[signature] Captain R.E.
District Engineer
North Arcot

T.O

Since the above was written a few letters have been received, but the only information of importance is contained in a demi official from the Collector, who informs me of the destruction on the 26th instant of the bridge on the Bangalore road over the Palaicaud river, three miles from the town of that name —

6793

Govt. of H.M.'s Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Rec'd. Encl.

G. O. 19th Nov. 1874, No. 1271

Nos. 326-327.

Floods - North Arcot

Dr.

Letter from the Dr. Engr. reporting ~~[illegible]~~ on the floods & the damages done to several Works recorded pending further details & Estimates

From Pro: of Fort St. George
No. 6793.
The District Engineer
North Arcot.

To,
The Secretary to Govt.
Public Works Departt.
Madras.

Dated 29th October/74.
Rec'd 31

No. 2088.

Enclosure None

Report to the occurrence of serious damage to various works in this District from the floods of the last few days.

By the Order

Ordered the record, Proceeding
Further ordered, Report.

Engineer

Can. Clerk 5/11/74

326-327

Secn 3/11/74
Secn Wooty 31-10-74.