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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

pub. works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 3281 Press

~~B.P. No.~~ ~~Mis.~~

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Dated 28-11-1874 195 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 345. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R.E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Vellore, 27th October 1874, No. 654-B:—

I HAVE already reported in my letter* of this date, No. 654-A, that I resumed my duties upon the morning of the 26th instant. I reached the South-West Line of the Madras Railway at the Shevaroy Hills station, and travelled by the night mail of that day, intending to reach Madras upon the following morning; but, on reaching Jollarpett, I learnt that the extremely heavy rains of the last fortnight had again injured the line at the places near the Vaniembady and Mailputty stations where it was breached upon the 6th May last, also that communication upon the North-West Line had been interrupted; and it seemed desirable that I should resume my duties by visiting and inspecting the places where damage had been sustained.

* Sent through the Controller of Public Works Accounts.

2. I accordingly proceeded to the 124th mile, and found that the bank at each end of the temporary bridge had been breached. The bridge itself was not damaged, and the gaps in the banks were being rapidly closed under the supervision of Mr. Watson, the officer in charge of the new bridge which is being built there. It is expected that the temporary bridge will be again ready for the passage of trains by to-morrow, the 28th instant; but I regret to state that the operations connected with the new bridge have been seriously thrown back by the recent floods.

3. I then proceeded to Mailputty, and found that the centre pier in the temporary bridge at the 105½ mile had shown symptoms of weakness, having sunk about 9 inches. The measures necessary for strengthening the pier were being taken, and, before I left, the temporary bridge was again nearly ready to receive trains.

4. When I reached the Mailputty station, I received a telegram from Mr. Carter, the Resident Engineer of the division, announcing that part of the bridge over the Goriattum river, consisting of five 30-feet arches, had been carried away by the flood, and that communication with Madras and the east was interrupted for the time. The road on the south bank of the Palar river seemed to offer the only chance of reaching Arconum, and I accordingly returned to Amboor, where I got a cart and reached Vellore before daylight this morning, in time to find that nine arches of the road-bridge over the Palar had given way only a few minutes before my arrival on the spot. Communication between this place and the Railway is thus completely cut off for the present, and it is my intention to return to-night to Amboor and Mailputty in the hope of finding that the flood in the Goriattum river has subsided, and that I may be able to proceed to Arconum.

5. The floods of the last week in the Palar and other neighbouring rivers seem to have been beyond precedent. Upon the 25th instant the register at the railway bridge over the Palar gave a depth of 11½ feet of water in the river; and, although the flood had slightly subsided yesterday, the force of the stream when

I walked over the bridge was such as to leave no doubt that, with the protective works in an unfinished state, the condition of the bridge was extremely critical.

6. As explained above, I have not yet been able to visit the bridge over the Poiney river, but there is good reason to believe that this structure has also been exposed to a very severe test.

No. 346. ORDER THEREON, 20th November 1874, No. 3,281.

RAILWAY, No. 56. ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

P. W. 1874 Sept.
Govt. of Madras No: 6719 A

From

The Consg: Engr:
for Railways
Dated 27 Octr 1874
Recd 28th —
No: 654 B.

Reporting on
the damages caused
by recent floods
to the Madras
Railway -

20

Gl. No: 3281. 20-11-74.

345-346.

Govt. 6294 / 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Recd. Encl.

G. O. 20 Nov 1874, No 328

Nos. 345-346

Damages to the Madras Railway.— Letter from the Secretary for Railways respecting the damages done to ~~the Southern Railway~~ by the recent floods, &c. &c. &c.