No. 487. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, in the Revenue Department, dated 24th November 1874, No. 1,451 :—

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th November 1874.

Read the following letter from E. L. PEARSE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated Vellore, 4th November 1874, No. 782.

I HAVE the honor to report that very serious damage has been done by recent freshes in the Palar, five arches of the Gudiathum Railway bridge, sixteen arches of the Vellore bridge, and a large portion of the anicut below Arcot having been destroyed. Heavy rain fell here, and, presumably, all over the river basin on the night of the 23rd and 24th ultimo. Inches 4·76 were recorded at this station. The river rose on the evening of the 24th, and, in the course of the night, overflowed its banks a little to the west of the bridge and inundated the fields lying between the river and the fort. The water passed the road by means of a tunnel and road dam, and went off eastward without doing any damage except to the crops. The road acting as a bund sufficed, but barely sufficed to protect the little village of Totapoliem, which lies on its east side. The insufficiency of the tunnel at this point had already been recognized, and the Local Fund Board passed a resolution in their September meeting calling for an estimate for a larger bridge.

2. The river continued in flood Sunday and Monday (25th and 26th), and early in the morning of Tuesday I learnt from Colonel Shaw-Stewart that five arches of the Gudiathum Railway bridge and nine arches of this Palar bridge were gone. I telegraphed this information to Government, and then got word that seven more arches of this bridge had given way. The first breach was about midnight or very early morning, the second about 8 o'clock. A raft was made during the day and in the afternoon was tried. It could not be got across the strongest part of the current, that running along the north side, and at last the adventurers had to land again on the same side they had started from four miles lower down. Next day the force of the stream had somewhat abated, and the voyage was successfully made; since then communication has been kept up more or less efficiently.

3. I have received a report from the Tahsildar of Gudiathum, dated 26th, detailing the damage done at his head-quarters. He says the Railway bridge gave way about 4 o'clock that morning, that eight houses on his (the north-east) side of the river had fallen, and, as it appeared to him, twenty-one on the other side, but he could not get across to ascertain. The people who lived in those houses had perceived their danger and gone up into the town the previous evening, consequently there was no loss of life.

4. The Arcot Tahsildar's report, dated 30th, says that the old town and the outlying village of Bairagimattam were both threatened with inundation, but that he had the gaps in the embankment effectually stopped. When at Arcot recently I saw the embankment which runs from the anicut back to the town of Arcot, and from the condition it was in, I should say that a very creditable amount of energy must have been displayed to make it secure under such an inordinately severe test. The villages of Pungodu and Takkanancolum were flooded waist

deep. The Tahsildar says he went to see the anicut and found the middle part to the extent, as he conjectures, of about 30 shutters' space, had been carried away. The Revenue Inspector reports, from the extreme south-east of the taluq, that floods of the Cheyaur have caused great damage to crops in six villages.

5. I have heard of no loss of life by these floods, except that of one man who was drowned in attempting to cross on a small raft between Vellore and Cautpady. I gather that the loss of private property other than crops is slight. The houses which have fallen at Gudiathum seem to be of a poor, if not the poorest, sort, the Arcot Tahsildar makes no mention of private losses in those of his villages which were flooded, and I have heard of none here. I fear however that one effect will be to aggravate the cattle disease which has lately prevailed to some extent in Arcot Taluq. The road between this town and the river, and the road on the side of Arcot are much cut up, but I am not in a position to give any estimate of the amount of damage to them, still less of that to the crops.

6. In my letter No. 699, dated 23rd September, I reported the breaching of four tanks in Arcot Taluq (three of which were supplied by the anicut) and one in Vellore. A few days later six more in Arcot went, of which three were anicut-fed. The one in Vellore Taluq was admittedly in want of repair, and I think we have great cause of self-gratulation that the two taluqs of Vellore and Gudiathum have escaped so well. Strict care was taken to have all calingulahs kept constantly open, and that precaution seems to have sufficed. I am inclined to believe that if the orders given had been equally well obeyed in Arcot Taluq, so many tanks would not have given way. In one case, at least, it is known that the calingulah was kept shut.

7. Any comment of mine on the disastrous loss of the three great works is needless. On the morning of the 31st a special meeting of the Local Fund Board of this circle was held to consider what should be done in consequence of the loss of the Vellore bridge, and I enclose herewith a copy of the Minutes of Proceedings. I have little doubt that Government will acquiesce in the reasonableness of the hope, which we venture to entertain, that a liberal contribution will be made from Imperial funds towards the restoration of that important work. The speedy execution of the work is urgently required, but the speedy supply of such a large sum as would be needed for it could not be granted by the two Local Fund Circles combined without the sacrifice of every other consideration.

No. 568.

SUBMITTED for the information of the Board of Revenue.

(Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE,
Collector.

CAMP, VELLORE
6th November 1874.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Board await the Collector's report on the damages caused throughout the district, and on the means proposed to remedy them.

3. It may be possible to do something to repair roughly the damage in the middle of the Palar anicut so that the tanks could be again filled.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

THE Government are much concerned to learn that serious damage has been done to Public Works in the North Arcot District by the recent floods. The submission of the Collector's full report on the subject should be expedited.

2. Paragraph 7 of the Sub-Collector's letter will receive consideration in the Financial Department, and orders will be issued from the Public Works Department for the prompt repair of the irrigation works, as well as for the temporary repair, if possible, of the Palar anicut, as suggested in paragraph 3 of the Board's Proceedings.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 488. ORDER THEREON, 28th December 1874, No. 3,619.

IRRIGATION, No. 41.

COMMUNICATED to the District Engineer, North Arcot, who, the Government are aware, is doing all that is practicable to repair the damage done by the October floods. A report of what it may have been found practicable to do in temporarily closing the breach in the Palar anicut should be submitted as soon as possible.

2. In anticipation of sanction to a grant of Rupees 50,000 additional to the existing grant of Rupees 2,13,950 for New Works, Agricultural, Ordinary, for which application will immediately be made to the Government of India, to enable the reconstruction of important Irriga tion Works reported as damaged in the North Arcot and other districts to be immediately undertaken, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to place a sum of Rupees 30,000 at the disposal of the District Engineer. His application for executive aid has been complied with in another order.

(Here enter No. 3,619A, dated 28th December 1874.)

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, North Arcot.
,, Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
,, Controller of Public Works Accounts.
,, Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE, 28*th December* 1874.

No. 488-A.

No. 3,619-A.

FROM

COLONEL G. W. WALKER, R.E.,
Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Public Works Department,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
Public Works Department.

IRRIGATION, No.41-A.

SIR,—I am directed to bring to the notice of the Government of India that the extremely heavy floods of October last in the rivers taking their rise in the Mysore country and in the Bellary and Cuddapah Districts, have occasioned very serious damage to many of the important Irrigation Works in the Nellore, North Arcot, Chingleput, and South Arcot Districts. That in Nellore the Pennair anicut was turned, and the immediate lengthening of that dam across the breach thus formed is deemed to be essential to its future safety, the dam having been built at an exceptionally narrow part of the river. In North Arcot considerably more than one-half of the Palar anicut has been swept away, and some three-fourths of the Poiney anicut on a principal tributary of the Palar. In Chingleput several works have been damaged, but their restoration will probably be capable of being provided for from Repair Funds. In South Arcot the Pooniar has been more than once in excessive flood, and the anicut across that river has been twice turned; a considerable extension of its length northwards is necessary, and this work must be carried out forthwith, so that the anicut may be prepared for the freshes of 1875.

2. I am to say that the original grant for Irrigation Works under Capital Ordinary was very small, only two large works having been provided for, and a very large part of their allotments having, under the orders of the Government of India, been diverted to provide for incomplete works of 1873-74, many of which latter nevertheless had to be stopped for want of funds; there is no money available to meet the unexpected demands on account of the damaged works above referred to, and I am to ask that, in the first instance, and until the actual extent of funds required to meet the expenditure within the current year shall be more accurately known, a special grant of Rs. 50,000 may be made to cover outlay now being incurred. I am to add that, so far as can

Vide Public Works G. O., Nos. 2,265 and 2,273, dated 15th and 17th August 1874.

be at present estimated, the expenditure up to the 31st March next on account of the four anicuts named above will amount to about one lakh of rupees, exclusive of provision for establishments, but as yet there has not been time for the District Engineers concerned to ascertain and report their requirements.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 14th Nov. 1874

Read the following

No. 782.

From

C. L. Pearse Esquire

Actg. Sub. Collr. of N. Arcot.

To,

W. S. Whiteside Esquire

Collector of N. Arcot.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that very serious damage has been done by recent freshes in the Palar, 5 arches of the Gudiatham Railway bridge, sixteen arches of the Vellore Bridge, and a large portion of the Anicut below Arcot having been destroyed. Heavy rainfall

here

here and presumably all over the
river basin on the night of the 23rd
24th Ultimo. Inches 4·76 were record
ed at this station. The river rose
on the evening of the 24th and in
the course of the night overflowed
its banks a little to the west of
the bridge and inundated the
fields lying between the river and
the Fort. The water passed the road
by means of a tunnel and road
dam, and went off eastward with
out doing any damage except the
crops. The road acting as a bund
sufficed but barely sufficed to
protect the little Village of Tola-
pokein which lies on its East side.
The insufficiency of the tunnel
at this point had already been
recognized and the Local Fund
Board passed a resolution in
their September Meeting calling
for an estimate for a larger
bridge.

2. The river continued in flood

Sunday

Sunday and Monday (25th & 26th)
and early in the morning of
Tuesday I learnt from Colonel
Shaw Stewart that 5 arches of
the Gudiathum Railway Bridge
and 9 arches of this Palar Bridge
were gone. Telegraphed this
information to Govt and then
got word that 7 more arches of
this bridge had given way. The
first breach was about midnight
or very early morning, the second
about 8 o'clock. A raft was
made during the day and in
the afternoon was tried. It
could not be got across the
strongest part of the current,
that running along the north
side, and at last the adventurers
had to land again on the same
side they had started from four
miles lower down. Next day
the force of the stream had some
what abated and the voyage was

successfully

successfully made, since then com-
munication has been kept up
more or less efficiently.

3. - I have received a report
from the Tahsildar of Gudiatham
dated 26th detailing the damage
done at his head quarters. He says
the Railway Bridge gave way about
4 O'clock that Morning, that 18
houses on his (the North east) side
of the river had fallen and as
it appeared to him, 21 on the
other side but he could not get
across to ascertain. The people
who lived in those houses had
perceived their danger and
gone up into the town the previous
evening, consequently there was
no loss of life.

4. The Asst Tahsildar's report
dated 30th says that the old town
and the outlying village of Bairg-
anattam were both threatened
with inundation but that he
had the gaps in the Embankment

effectually

effectually stopped. When at the
recently I saw the embankment
which runs from the Ancut bre
to the Town of about and from
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of energy must have been displ
ed to make it secure under cir
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on column were flooded waist de
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reports from the extreme South
east of the taluq that floods of
the Cheyan have caused great
damage to crops in six villages.

5. I have heard of no
loss of life by these floods
except that of one man who

was

was drowned in attempting to cross on a small raft between Vellore and Gatpady. I gather that the loss of private property other than crops is slight. The houses which have fallen at Gudiatham seem to be of a poor if not the poorest sort; the Arcot Talukdar makes no mention of private loss in those of his Villages which were flooded, and I have heard of none here. I fear however that one effect will be to aggravate the cattle disease which has lately prevailed to some extent in Arcot Talug. The road between this town and the river, and the road on the side of Arcot are much cut up, but I am not in a position to give any estimate of the amount of damage to them still less of that to the crops.

6. In my letter No. 699 dated 23rd September I reported the breaching of 4 tanks in

in Arcot Talug. (three of which were supplied by the anicut) and one in Vellore. A few days later six more in Arcot went of which three were anicut-fed. The one in Vellore tal took was admittedly in want of repair and I think we have great cause of self-gratulation that the two talugs of Vellore and Gudiatham have escaped so well. Strict care was taken to have all Calingulahs kept constantly open and that precaution seems to have sufficed. I am inclined to believe that if the orders given had been equally well obeyed in Arcot Talug., so many tanks would not have given way. In one case, at least, it is known that the Calingulah was kept shut.

7. Any comment of mine on the disastrous loss of the three great works is needless. On the morning of the 31st a special meeting of the Local Fund Board of this Circle was held to consider what should be done in consequence of the loss of the Vellore bridge, and I enclose herewith a copy of

of the Minutes of Proceedings. I have little doubt that Government will acquiesce in the reasonableness of the hope which we venture to entertain that a liberal contribution will be made from Imperial funds towards the restoration of that important work. The speedy execution of the work is urgently required, but the speedy supply of such a large sum as would be needed for it could not be granted by the two Local Fund Circles combined, without the sacrifice of every other consideration.

I have &c
R. Arcot Subcoll's Office } sd/ C. L. Pearse
Vellore 4 November 74 } Ag: Sub Collector.

No 568.

Submitted for the information of the Board of Revenue.

sd/ W. L. Whiteside.
R. Arcot Coll's Office } Collector.
Camp Vellore 6 Nov 74.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board await the Collector's report on the damages caused throughout the district and on the means proposed to remedy them.

3. It may be possible to do something to

to repair roughly the damage in the middle of the Palar anicut, so that the tanks could be again filled.

/True copies & Extract/
sd/ J. Grose
Secretary.

Order thereon 24 November 1874. No 1451

The Government are much concerned to learn that serious damage has been done to Public Works in the North Arcot district by the recent floods. The submission of the Collector's full report on the subject should be expedited.

2. Para 7 of the Sub Collector's letter will receive consideration in the Financial department and orders will be issued from the Public Works department for the prompt repair of the irrigation works, as well as for the temporary repair, if possible, of the Palar anicut as suggested in para 3 of the Board's Proceedings.

/True Extract/
Ag: Secretary to Govt.

To
The Public Works department

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Read the following mes-
sage from Major Allen
Chief Engr. & Secy. P.W.D.
Chief Engr. No 114 dt 24th Nov 1874.

To the Chief Secy. to Govt.
Madras Mtl. Dept.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter from the Executive Engineer, Northern Division, who has represented that the Chief Engineer's Camp Establishment should be sanctioned for all that is required to be done to repair the damages done by the floods.

Before I can submit the report of what it may have been found practicable to do I must request the sanction of Government to the temporarily closing of the breach in the Palar anicut should such be found necessary.

I have &c.

(Signature illegible)
Chief Engr.

P. No. 1874 Dept.
Rev. Office for Decr
No: 7424
Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Revenue Dept.
Dated 21st Nov: 1874.
Read 25th — 1874.
No: 1451

Copying order on the report of the damage by floods in the N. Arcot Dist. and requesting that orders may be issued to the P.W. Dept for the prompt repair of irrigation works and the temporary repair of the Palar anicut.
Rc. No. 2619. 28-12-74.

No 487
109-1-75
R.C. 12th Jan 75
Cir 8-12-74 Cir. 11 Dec 74

be submitted as soon as possible

Mr. 1/12/74

Govt.

A sum of Rs. 30,000 is placed at the disposal of the D. Engr. under Repairs Original Burial in anticipation of sanction to the additional grant which the Govt. have been requested to make.

The Chief Engineer has been requested in separate orders to detail the requisite executive aid for both works.

Rec. 12-12-74
Sent 8-12-74 Rolls Deds

3742/74

In anticipation of application the Govt. of I. funds for three objects for Rs. 30,000 as per Abstract destroyed by the floods of the detailed requisition executive aid for both works

8/12

Letter No. 1886 dated 14th July 1874
Do. B 3734 Detto

Read the letter dated 1st Inst.

To The D.E. Northern — Chittoor for Info. — Revd. Dept.

G.O. No. 3619 - 28-12-74

21

8th 8619

P. W. D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government,
Under date the 1874.

Read the following:-

Pro. of the Madras Govt. Rev. Dept. } Ltr. No. 1457 dated 24th Dec. 1874
G.O. No. 3619 dated 28th December 1874

Communicated to the District Engineer North Arcot, who the Government are aware no doubt not is doing all that is practicable to repair the damage done by the October floods. A report of what it may have been found practicable to do in temporarily closing the breach in the Palar Anicut should be

8/12

be submitted as soon as possible.

2. In anticipation of sanction to a grant of Rs 50000 additional to the existing grant of Rs 213,950 for New works, Agricultural, Ordinary for which application will immediately be made to the Govt of India, to enable the reconstruction of important Irrigation works reported as damaged in the North Arcot and other Districts to be immediately undertaken,

His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to place a sum of Rs 30,000 at the disposal of the District Engineer. His application for Executive aid has been complied with in another Order.

Govt

574/4

To the District Engr. North Arcot. Dft. dated 28-12-74 to D. Brandy
" Chief Engr. for Irrigation " Copies despd. to Do. 26/1/75.
" Controller of P. W. Accounts.
" Revenue Department.

Despd. 26/1/75.

6

No 3619 Dated 28th December 1874.

From

The Secretary to the

Government of India

To

The Secretary to the

Government of Madras

Public Works Department

Sir

I am directed to bring to the notice of the Government of India that the extreme heavy floods of October last in the rivers taking their rise in the Mysore Country from the Bellary and Cuddapah Districts have occasioned very serious damage to

c. 12.12.74.

many of the important
Irrigation works in the Nellore,
North Arcot, Chingleput
and South Arcot Districts.
That in Nellore the Permanent
Anicut with Turned and
the immediate lengthening
of that dam or the
formation of
to be regarded to be essential
to its future safety. This dam
having been built at
an exceptionally narrow
part of the River. The
North Stream consequently
bore than one half of the
Pulicat Anicut has been
diverted away and bore
three fourths of the Power
Anicut on a principle

Contributory of the Palaru
[illegible] in the
head [illegible] but
the preservation will pro-
bably be capable of
being provided for from
Repairs under the Soonar has
been more than once in
excessive flood and the
Anicut across that River
has been twice lowered:
a considerable extension
of the length towards
is necessary and this work
must be carried out for
with to treat the Anicut
may be prepared for
freshes of 1876.

2nd It must be borne in mind that the original grant for irrigation works under Capital Outlay Estimates, usually only 2 lacs, having been provided for and a very large part of these allotments having been diverted to provide for incomplete works of 1873-74, leaving part of which could nevertheless had to be stopped for want of funds, there is no money available to meet the unexpected demands on account of the damaged works above referred to, and I am to add that, in the first instance and until the actual extent

Vide Rr Govt 2265 & 2273 Dy 15th & 17th August 74

of funds required to meet the expenditure within the current year shall be more accurately known, a special grant of Rs 50,000 may be made to cover outlay now being incurred - I am to add that, so far as can be at present estimated, the expenditure up to the 31st March next on account of the 4 Anicuts named above will amount to about 4 lacs of Rupees, exclusive of provision for establishment, but as yet there has not been time for the District Engineer concerned to ascertain and report this

7424

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

From The Dist. Engr.
R. Arcot

To Secy. to Govt. of Madras

Dated

Rcd. Encl.

G. O. 28 Dec. 1874, No. 3619

3619-A

Nos. 487-488A

Woods — North Arcot Dt.

Proceedings in the Revenue Dept., passing orders on report of damage by Public Works Woods, forwarded to the Dist. Engr. — A return by which it may have been found practicable to do in lieu thereof closing the breach in the Palar Anicut to be sanctioned, Rs. 30,000 Estimated.

609-1-75