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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	509	Press
B.P.—No.		Mis.
Dated	22. 2.	195
		1875

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 541. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. ROBERTS, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Tanjore, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated 17th November 1874, No. 2,019 :—

I HAVE the honor to forward a statement showing the breaches that occurred in this district during the late high floods and the expenditure incurred in closing the same.

One statement.

2. On the 16th July 1874 the gauge on the upper anicut registered no less than 11 feet 10 inches, a height which has not been reached for the past 15 years in this district. It has always been thought that, with a height of over 10 feet on the above-mentioned gauge, the whole of the delta of this district would be flooded and its safety endangered. Fortunately, however, the flood was a falling one, and owing to this, as also to the fact of the banks of all the rivers in this district having of recent years received a great deal of attention and been carefully maintained, the damage done by the floods this year, in comparison with what has taken place in former years, has been, on the whole, almost trifling. The largest breach was in the south bank of the Coleroon near the village of Veeramangoody, and this breach is attributed to the bank having been worn away at the spot by the passage of cattle coming backwards and forwards between the village and the river.

3. Major Oakes, R.E., when in charge of this district was in the habit of publishing in the *District Gazette* a notice to all Tahsildars, warning them to fill up the ruts, etc., made in the river and channel banks by the passage of bandy and cattle. Mr. Arbuthnott, however, informed me shortly before he left the district that Major Oakes had no authority to issue such an order, and that the Tahsildar and village authorities were justified in treating it as waste paper. I am now, however, in communication with Mr. Thomas, the Acting Collector, with a view of some definite instructions being prepared and issued in this connection, and I am in every hope that Mr. Thomas will issue such orders as will check the facility for the breaching of the banks owing to the cause above specified.

4. I should mention that the delay in submitting this statement has arisen solely in consequence of the difficulties experienced by the Range Officers in obtaining from the Tahsildars concerned the information necessary for the preparation of the statement now forwarded.

No. 93.

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

THE accompanying report by the Superintending Engineer, Tanjore, of the extent of damage sustained by the Cauvery Delta works in Tanjore from a fresh of 11 feet 10 inches on the gauge at the upper anicut is, it is thought, the best evidence that the river banks and embankments have since the flood of 1869 been vastly improved. It will be seen that only twenty-five breaches occurred, most of them

Tanjore, 17 Nov. 1874.

From Lieut. - Col. R. A. Roberts R.E.
Superintending Engineer
Tanjore

To, Lieut. Col. J. Mullins R.E.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation
D. P. W.

Sir, I have the honor to forward a statement showing the breaches that occurred in this District during the late high floods, and the expenditure incurred in closing the same.

2. On the 16th July 1874, the gauge on the upper annicut registered no less than 11 ft. 10 inches - a height which has not been reached for the past 15 years in this District. It has always been thought that with a height of over 10 ft. on the above mentioned gauge, the whole of the Delta of this District would be flooded and its safety endangered. Fortunately, however, the flood was a falling one, and owing to this, as also to the fact of

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 District having of been
 a great deal of attention and
 carefully maintained, the damage done
 by the floods this year, in comparison
 with what has taken place in former
 years, has been on the whole, almost
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 the south bank of the Coleroon near
 the village of Teeramangoody, and
 this breach is attributed to the bank
 having been worn away at the spot
 by the passage of cattle coming
 backwards and forwards between
 the village and the river.

3. Major Oakes B.E. when
 in charge of this District was in
 the habit of publishing in the District
 Gazette, a notice to all Tahsildars,
 warning them to fill up the ruts &c
 made in the river and channel
 banks by the passage of bandy and
 cattle. Mr. Arbuthnot, however,
 informed me shortly before he
 left the District, that Major Oakes
 had no authority to issue such
 an order, and that the Tahsildar
 and Village authorities were
 justified in treating it as waste
 paper

The fact of its
 publication in
 the District Gazette
 gave it at least
 indirectly the
 Collection support

Subject to
 the orders
 of the
 Government

It is not legally
 but in the interest
 of the people
 we must have the
 Government subject to any other

maneuver with Mr Thomas the
 Acting Collector with a view of
 some definite instructions being
 prepared and issued in this con-
 nection, and I am in every hope
 that Mr Thomas will issue such
 orders as will check the facility for
 the breaching of the banks owing to
 the cause above specified.

4. I should mention
 that the delay in submitting this
 Statement has arisen solely in
 consequence of the difficulties ex-
 perience by the Range Officers in
 obtaining from the Tahsildars con-
 cerned the information necessary
 for the preparation of the State-
 ment now forwarded.

I have the honor to be,
 Sir,
 Your most obedt Servt

Richd. Robert Lieut. Col. R.E.
 Supt. Engineer, Tanjore

No. 93
Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation

The accompanying report by the Superintending Engineer, Tanjore, of the extent of damage sustained by the Camry Delta works in Tanjore from a fresh of 11'-10" on the gauge at the upper Anicut is, it is thought, the best evidence that the river banks and embankments have since the flood of 1869 been vastly improved. It will be seen that only 25 breaches occurred, most of them of a very trifling kind, and that the expenditure in their repair amounted to but Rupees 2,524. From the condition of the river beds and banks some 13 years ago it is believed that 50,000 Rupees would not have covered the damage which such a fresh would have occasioned, and there would also have been much loss from damage to crops. In the present case there was either no loss or the damage done was insignificant.

res. 2

4/25/93 7/15-

From the Chief Engineer

To the Chief Engineer

for Irrigation

No. 2019

Dated 17 November 1874

Enclosed 1/11/75

forward a statement

showing the breaches

that occurred in the Tanjore

District during the late

high flood of the 15th

and 16th of the 1874

withdrawing the same

205/1

2 The Government will doubtless notice with regret the views expressed by the Honorable D. Arbuthnot, when Collector of Tanjore, as reported in para 3 of the Superintending Engineer's letter. Major Oakes' warnings to Tahsildars and Village Officers generally through the District Gazette must, from the fact of their publication therein, have manifestly had at least the indirect support of the Collector, and that such warnings are necessary in some form or another is manifest, because only villagers can see to the safety on the occurrence of high freshes of the many hundreds of miles of river banks of the Delta. To say therefore that such warnings, because issued by an Officer who had no direct authority over the Tahsildars and Villagers, might justly be treated as waste paper showed great want of wisdom, if nothing worse, seeing that very great interests are involved and Major Oakes' action was reasonable in itself and based upon a thorough

thorough knowledge of the necessities of the case.

3 Instructions have repeatedly been issued from this office to the effect that all recognized crossings of flood embankments or tank bunds &c. should be provided with proper ramps, and that means should be taken to so fence these as to confine the traffic thereto. Such precautions are necessary to reduce risk of accidents, and these works may also be considered to be a reasonable convenience. Nevertheless the attention and care of Village Officers and especially of all Revenue Officials will continue to be necessary, and they should certainly be given ungrudgingly.

Camp at
Arcot
22 January 1875

John Linnell Esq. ^{Chief Engineer}
Chief Engineer for Irrigation

To The Secretary to Government
D. P. W.

P. W. D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government,

Under date the

187.

Read the following:—

From

The Chief Eng. for Irrigation (No. 93 & 22nd Jan'y/75)

509

His Excellency the Governor in Council has learnt with much satisfaction that the attention paid in recent years to the condition of the river beds and banks in the Tanjore Delta has been so far effectual that a fresh register as 11 feet 10 inches on the higher Aricut river gauge occasioned but little damage in the way of breaches and

P. W. D. 1875
No. 93
No. 586

From
The Chief Engineer for
Irrigation

To
The Secretary to Govt.
of S. M.

Dated 22nd Jan'y
1875

Enclosure

Note on the report of

the Chief Eng. for Irrigation

on the damage to the

Delta works during the

floods

P. O. No. 589-22-8-75

but nominal loss of Revenue.

2. ~~This following must~~
~~express the disapproval of~~
~~the views of the State Collector~~ There is no objection to the issue
~~of a notice in connection with~~ such a notice ^{as that} issued by Major
Oakes from time to time
with a view to remind Tah-
sildars and Village Officers
of the necessity of looking
after the low places of
banks caused by the pass-
age of carts and cattle, ^{and its promulgation} in the District Gazette
the need of such warning. <sup>clears the late Col-
lector of the charge
of having opposed it.</sup>
There could be no doubt,
and the only proper course,
if the Collector had any
objection to its issue by
the District Engineer, was
to give a similar warning
himself and do all ^{that}
could be made it effectual.

It

It is the duty of all Officers
of Government and of Village
Officers to protect such
public and private interests
as those now referred to, and
to do all that lies in their
power to lessen risks of ac-
cidents and of damage there-
from resulting. The Govt.
are glad to hear that
measures are being concerted
between the Assistant Collector
and Superintending Engineer
for securing due attention
to this important matter.

M.W.

by 27/1/75

S. Eng. Sanford ✓
All other Supg & D. Engineers ✓
Chief Eng. for Irrigation ✓
Revenue Department ✓

Regd. Secy
to the
Collector

Dec 24-2-75

586

Gobt. of (1875) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Supergr
Tanjore

By

Head

Recd.

22 Feb 1875

No. 541-542

Damages - Tanjore R.

Passing orders on
~~note~~ the subject of the
damages sustained
by the Cauvery Delta
Works during the late
heavy floods -