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 (3) Initials of the Referencer ten

# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W.D. DEPARTMENT

|          |           |        |
|----------|-----------|--------|
| G.O. No. | 842 (W)   | Press. |
| B.P. No. |           | Mis.   |
| Dated    | 19.2.1878 | 197.   |

G.P.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

842  
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

19th February 1878, No. 842 W.

General.

Establishment.

Read again the following:—

No. 183. Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, dated 16th January 1878, No. 44 I.

No. 184. ORDER THEREON, 19th February 1878, No. 842 W.

It is observed that sufficient establishment has been temporarily posted to the Tinnevely District to carry out the urgent repairs rendered necessary by the late floods, and that the permanent establishment has been strengthened by the addition of an Assistant Engineer of the 2nd Grade, lately arrived from England.

2. Endeavours will be hereafter made to place in Tinnevely some officers of the higher grades of the Department. But no such officers are at the moment available.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,  
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.  
„ District Engineer, Tinnevely.

Exd. S. T. Austin.  
Spare Copies

GENERAL  
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of (1878) Madras.  
PUBLIC WORKS.

THE CHIEF ENGINEER FOR IRRIGATION,

&c. &c. &c.

Dated February 19th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 19th February 1878, No. 842 W.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 183-184.

Resolice Establishment of the Tinnevely  
District.—Endeavours to be hereafter made  
to strengthen the —

242  
2

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

16th January 1878, No. 44 I.

Irrigation.

Read the following papers:—

No. 43. Endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Camp at Masulipatam, 11th December 1877, No. 271 I.

From J. D. GRANT, Esq., Officiating District Engineer, Tinnevely, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Palamecottah, 30th November 1877, No. 144.

I HAVE the honor to report that during the present month of November considerable damage has been done to the minor irrigation works of the district by the unusual and incessant rain that has fallen.

2. As might be expected the greatest amount of damage was in the Nanguneri Taluq, in the neighbourhood of Rathapooram, where on one day, the 28th of November, 9.4 inches of rain fell.

3. In that vicinity the tanks are all small, in bad order, with banks of very poor material, so that with such an abnormal rainfall the breaching of all the tanks was inevitable.

4. The repair of the 48 tanks so far reported breached is estimated to cost Rupees 4,786, but as I have directed that in no case where a ring-bund will suffice shall the breach be completely closed, I hope the sum abovenamed may prove excessive. It is more than probable however that all the breaches have not been reported, and that many were at once closed by the ryots and will thus have to be paid for.

5. Next to Nanguneri in extent of damage comes the Strevevelliputur Taluq, where 40 tanks are reported breached, and their repair estimated at Rupees 3,456.

6. Here also I trust that by limiting the work of repair to what is absolutely unavoidable, the estimated expenditure will prove higher than the actual.

7. In Sattoor, Sankernainercovil, Ambasamudrum, and Ottapidarum, there are a few breaches, the whole within Rupees 1,000 value.

8. The total amount of damage to be repaired costs thus about Rupees 9,000, and as my Agricultural allotment is entirely exhausted I would beg that funds be at once placed at my disposal to meet the cost of these emergent works.

9. It is satisfactory to observe that no accident has happened to any of the river channels, or to any works which have been properly repaired and provided with surplus weirs. The Korumpullum tank was the only one regarding which I felt any anxiety, especially as the south-west monsoon had in many places injured the revetment which has slipped, and will have to be rebuilt. This is owing, I believe, to the depth of foundation being insufficient.

10. Without emptying the tank it was impossible to repair the revetment, and during the late heavy rain extra precautions were necessary to prevent the wretched soil of which the bank is composed from being completely eaten away in several places.

11. The Tuticorin fresh water channel was breached by the breaching of the drainage channel above; but the damage is slight.

12. I may mention here that the leakage in the Tuticorin channel, which formerly caused so much loss of water and discussion, this year entirely ceased, the channel having apparently puddled itself; no remedial measures need therefore be attempted.

13. I append a few notes regarding the rainfall in various parts of the district, from which you will observe that considerable damage was inevitable. The rain still continues, and the river is rising so that it is not improbable we may have still more breaches to repair.

|                                                                     |         |        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Average rainfall of Palamcottah for six years ending December 1876  | INCHES. | 22.533 |
| Rainfall from January up to 30th November 1877                      | ...     | 34.688 |
| Average rainfall of the month of November for six years ending 1876 | ...     | 7.678  |
| Rainfall of November 1877 (fell on twenty-one days)                 | ...     | 22.75  |

|                                                    |     |       |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----|-------|
| <i>Streevelliputur Talug.</i>                      |     |       |
| At Virdupatty during October 1877, on sixteen days | ... | 19.28 |
| At Streevelliputur during October, on sixteen days | ... | 6.08  |

|                                              |     |       |
|----------------------------------------------|-----|-------|
| <i>Sattoor Talug.</i>                        |     |       |
| At Sattoor during October, on seventeen days | ... | 11.24 |

|                                                                                                              |     |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------|
| <i>Nanguneri Talug.</i>                                                                                      |     |       |
| At Edeyengoody during October, on four days                                                                  | ... | 4.40  |
| At Koodengolum (near Rathapooram) during October on six days, of which 9.4 inches fell in four hours on 29th | ... | 10.70 |

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

The damage reported is, as regards cost of closing breaches in the tanks injured by the heavy rainfall of November, not very heavy; but probably the loss of revenue will be material. Satisfactory progress in securing the safety of the tanks of the district generally cannot be obtained until the funds for Minor New Works have been made more adequate. A memorandum on this subject has lately been drawn up for the consideration of Government.

2. It will be seen that none of the tanks which have been provided with proper means of disposing of surplus were breached.

3. The District Engineer should obtain from the Collector in due course a statement showing the highest revenue, the average revenue, and the revenue of the current Fasil of all the breached tanks. With the abundant rainfall it is probable that the revenue of this Fasil would have reached the highest realized in past years, and the difference between the highest and the actual revenue, added to the cost of repairing damage, will represent the loss sustained by the insecure condition of the tanks.

4. The District Engineer has had instructions sent to him regarding the carrying out of the emergent repairs.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Colonel, R.E.,  
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.  
To the Joint Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch.

No. 43-A. From J. D. GRANT, Esq., Officiating District Engineer, Tinnevely, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Palamcottah, 11th December 1877, No. 150.

I HAVE the honor to report the occurrence of an unprecedented storm of rain in this district on the 5th and 6th of the present month, causing very great damage to all irrigation works, roads, &c.  
2. The reports hitherto received are very meagre, owing to the destruction of communications, but so far as can be gathered from the information to hand the cost of repairs will exceed a lakh of Rupees, and is more than likely to reach 1½ lakhs.

3. I yesterday despatched to you a telegram, of which I enclose a copy, requesting that Rupees 20,000 be at once put at my disposal; meanwhile I am doing every thing that is possible in anticipation of funds being provided.

4. As reported in my letter No. 144, of 30th ultimo, the month of November was exceptionally wet, and all tanks were either full or breached, the latter being in course of repair, and everywhere cultivation was being vigorously pushed on.

5. The month of December opened with every appearance of the rainfall being at an end, but on the 5th the rain recommenced, the north-east wind ceased and the wind blew strongly from the west, veering round on the 6th to the north-west with violent rain.

6. At Palamcottah the rainfall was as follows:—

|     |     |     |     |     |     |      |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 1st | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20   |
| 2nd | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | NIL  |
| 3rd | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | NIL  |
| 4th | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 40   |
| 5th | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1.50 |
| 6th | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4.30 |
| 7th | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | NIL  |
| 8th | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | NIL  |

7. The gaugings at other stations have not yet been received, but in reporting hereafter in greater detail I will give all information on the subject that I can collect.

8. It happened that on the 3rd I proceeded to Poothoogudy and found the river then flowing 2 feet 6 inches over the anicut, and subsiding, both head sluices were closed, as all the tanks of the Streeviguntum Anicut project system were full. The Mardur and other channels were also for a similar reason closed, and everything was thus in the worst possible condition to withstand further heavy rain.

9. On the 4th, as the weather appeared more settled, I proceeded to Porioor and found the Kadumbah tank discharging 4 inches over its calingulah crest and the Porioor channel running full.

10. On the morning of the 5th the water had ceased flowing over the Kadumbah calingulah, but the appearance of the weather was threatening, rain apparently falling heavily on the hills. I then proceeded to Poothugudy and found that the river had fallen to 1 foot 6 inches on the anicut crest, the head sluices being still closed and all the anicut vents open.

11. During the night with high wind rain fell continuously, and in the 24 hours up to 10 A.M. of the 7th 2½ inches were registered at Poothugudy; the river then was beginning to show signs of rising rapidly, and as everything indicated further rain and much damage I proceeded to Palamcottah, to be at headquarters in case of arrangements for repairs being required.

12. In going to Palamcottah through very heavy rain, I could see that every bund and bridge was strained to the utmost, and that it was beyond hope to expect any ordinary work to stand, and I now learn that in less than half an hour after I passed everything gave way.

13. The Mardur channel was just topping its banks, and the surplus weirs were discharging volumes of water across the road, which in many places was 2 feet under water.

14. By midnight of the 6th the storm began to subside and the destruction was everywhere complete.

15. The river at the Palamcottah bridge rose to a height of 27½ feet, being higher than the maximum of 1869, but no accident occurred to the bridge which so far as can be seen is in no way damaged.  
26.55 on the gauge.

16. At Ambasamudrum the water rose over the parapets of the bridge carrying away portions of them, the actual depth\* of water I have not yet learnt.  
\* 23 feet, it is now said.—J. D. G.

17. All the river channels are more or less breached I understand, but detail, are wanting; the breaches in the Palian channel I have seen, they are of great sizes the Pachiar river having carried away about 200 yards of the bank near the Anjoo Mathagoo. This breach I am closing by a simple ring-bund, as if possible a masonry work should be built to prevent the ever-recurring damage at that point.

18. The Tinnevely and Kodagun channels are also breached. The Mardur channels are breached in many places, all the tanks of the Streeviguntan Anicut system on the north side are breached, and from all quarters reports are still arriving of great damage. The under tunnel at Yeral is, I believe, safe.

19. The most complete reports are from the Nanguneri Taluq, where I regret to say almost every tank of any importance has breached and many miles of road are obliterated.

20. The Nanguneri tank, recently repaired, was cut by the Tahsildar when the water was running 1 foot 6 inches over the calingulah. I am not satisfied that this was necessary, but Sub-Engineer Mr. J. T. Hardy, who was there, coincides with the Tahsildar's opinion as to the expediency of the course he took; the repairs to the bank had only just been completed and it is possible that the earth was not sufficiently consolidated to bear the wash of the waves.

21. Vizianarayanum tank is of course breached, and indeed it would be more difficult to find a tank that is intact.

22. In the northern portion of the district there must have been great damage, but no reports have been received as the railway has suffered so much that the mails are arriving most irregularly.

P.S.—Since writing the above more detailed reports have been received from the Tenkarai Taluq, where the Taluq Overseer roughly estimates the damage at Rupees 88,000 to irrigation. This, I hope, is much above the mark, but as he gives each work in detail I fear I have hitherto under-estimated the cost of repairs. I hope to be able to send a more trustworthy report in a few days, but meanwhile I will do my best to prevent loss of crop. For this however money is most necessary, and at least Rupees 20,000 should at once be placed at my disposal.

PALAMCOTTAH,  
12th December 1877.

(Signed) J. D. GRANT,  
Offg. District Engineer.

Telegram from District Engineer, Palamcottah, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated 10th December 1877.

GREAT floods here, much damage. Must have 20,000 Rupees at once.

No. 43-B. Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
dated 20th December 1877, No, 2,196 W.

No. 234 I.

No. 43-C. Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

THE District Engineer, Tinnevely, at the end of November reported damage to certain tanks, and instructions were sent to him regarding the repair of the damage.

No. 144, 30th November 1877. The papers were also laid before Government with this office endorsement No. 271 I.

2. The serious damage over a wide area, sustained in consequence of the rainfall of the 5th and 6th instant, and the high fresh in the Tambrapoorney, is much to be regretted, and not the less so because it has been long known that the irrigation works in Tinnevely needed radical reformation. Warnings of much significance were conveyed

by the occurrences of 1869 and 1874, and the damage sustained on these occasions was very considerable.

3. The efforts which have been made to deal with the works properly and systematically have been attended with very meagre results, because the district has been under-officered and the funds available have been altogether inadequate to admit of reasonable progress being made. Mr. Grant has been acting as District Engineer ever since Mr. Rundall in 1875 left the district on furlough, and the only Assistant of the Engineer grade has been Mr. Hughes. The district requires two Executive Engineers and three or four Assistant Engineers, and to prevent further and future waste of money and revenue it is recommended that a proper permanent Executive Establishment should be provided. The cost of repairing damage is estimated at about 1½ lakhs of Rupees, and the works after this expenditure has been incurred will probably be in no better, and perhaps in a worse state, than was the case a month ago. Had this sum been spent in rendering them secure probably a good deal of the damage would have been averted, though of course by no means all, for to obviate that there must be steady persevering work for several years with an increased outlay on Minor New Works and Repairs of about 60,000 Rupees, or possibly more.

4. The emergent work to be done at once should be confined to that which is really emergent. It would not be wise to close breaches hastily if, as is more than probable in most cases, there will be no water to fill or partially fill the tanks. All but the work required to save the crops and revenue to such extent as may be possible should be deferred until the requirements of the tanks have been properly ascertained and estimated for. Then the money spent will secure useful work, and the surplus works found to be necessary should be constructed concurrently with the execution of the repairs.

CAMP, GODAVERY,  
Western Delta,

31st December 1877.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Colonel R.E.,  
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To the Joint Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch.

No. 44. ORDER THEREON, 16th January 1878, No. 44 I.

THE Examiner of Public Works Accounts will be requested to place the District Engineer, Tinnevely, in funds to the extent of Rupees 40,000 pending the receipt of more detailed reports as to the extent of damage sustained by irrigation works, and as to the amount required for emergent expenditure. Transfers to meet this provision will be at once arranged for by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, by making available money provided for Repairs in Famine Districts which has not been utilized owing to expenditure having been charged to Famine Suspense.

2. The District Engineer will sanction emergent estimates for really emergent work only, and will take measures for the early preparation, under the rules of the Irrigation Department, of estimates for rendering all the damaged works, which it may appear desirable to restore, safe and efficient.

3. Measures have been taken to strengthen temporarily the Executive Establishment, and the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, will be requested to arrange for the Engineer Establishment of the district being placed upon an efficient footing as early as may be practicable, and for such special officers being temporarily attached to the Executive Divisions or Ranges as will ensure the large amount of work to be done during the next few months being promptly and properly carried out.

(True Extract.)

*Chatterjee*

Major, R.E.,  
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,  
Irrigation Branch.

To the District Engineer, Tinnevely.

„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

„ Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

„ Revenue Department.

„ Examiner of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Austin.  
Spare Copies

## IRRIGATION.

Gobt. of (1878) Madras.  
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,  
TINNEVELLY,  
&c. &c.

Dated January 16th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 19th January 1878, No. 44 L.

JANUARY.

Nos. 43-44.

Damages caused to Irrigation Works in the  
Tinnevely District by recent floods.—The  
Examiner of Public Works Accounts to place  
at the District Engineer's disposal funds to  
the extent of Rupees 40,000 for carrying  
out emergent repairs to the —.

Pro. in the Public Works Dept. No. 44 I  
dated 16<sup>th</sup> January 1878. *W. J. K.*

## FOR ORDERS.

a list of those officers  
accompanies this paper.

Permanent help is  
not available till officers  
return from furlough.  
The establishment noted  
below has temporarily been  
posted to the district:—

This list contains officers  
for the present. I do not know  
that any further increase in the  
staff is desired at this time.  
The bringing up of full strength  
is being if  
L. D.

| Name                  | Rank                        | From which District | To which District |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Mr. W. J. Kehoe       | Supr. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade | Coimbatore          | Tinnevely         |
| P. Jones              | Sub Eng <sup>r</sup>        | Trichinopoly        | do                |
| Dowlatabai            | Overseer 1 <sup>st</sup>    | do                  | do                |
| Gowdop Chatterjee     | do                          | do                  | do                |
| Mr. C. H. R. Morton   | do 3 <sup>rd</sup>          | Tanjore             | do                |
| K. Narasimmacharay    | Sub Overseer                | do                  | do                |
| P. Shunmooja Moodelly | Overseer 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | do                  | do                |

and one Assistant Engineer  
of the late arrivals from  
Copers' Mill has been  
permanently placed on  
the district Establishment.

CA and Col. R.E.

Chief Eng<sup>r</sup> & Secy: Dynt.

Jan'y 1878.

R.H.D.

N<sup>o</sup> 842 W  
Public Works Department.  
General Branch.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 19<sup>th</sup> Feb'y 1878  
again  
Read the following:—

Proceedings in the Public Works  
Department  
Irrigation Branch.

S.H. N<sup>o</sup> 44 S of 16<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1878

25/2

It is observed that  
sufficient establishment has  
been temporarily posted to  
the Tinnevely District to  
carry out the urgent repairs  
rendered necessary by the  
late floods, and that the  
permanent establishment  
has been strengthened by  
the addition of an Assistant  
Engineer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade,  
lately arrived from England.  
2. Endeavours will be  
hereafter made to place  
in Tinnevely, some Officers  
of the higher grades of the  
Department. But this  
is not

M  
B/2

A.T.

Grace the Governor in Council  
does no likelihood of such  
officers being available for  
some time to come.

3. The claims of Timorvelly,  
though sufficiently pressing,  
cannot be considered more  
so than those of other districts  
which are no less  
under-officered. And the  
Government are not of opinion  
that to strengthen the estab-  
-lishment of <sup>the</sup> district at  
the cost of weakening others  
would be productive  
of good results.

W.F.  
13.2.70

A.E. for Irrigation  
D.R. Sincerely

W.F. 25-2-78

Secy. to Govt. 13.2.70

FOR ORDERS.

842 W

To E. I.  
For perusal.  
for E. H.

The District Council is holding  
workshops in the afternoon  
at the Supreme Court House  
it has at present the young  
Apostles and members of the  
Church. Some of the girls have  
been in time but not a number  
General duty for four months  
has to come

by 1/2

Aug 29-1878

Gen 13-27P

List of Officers of the P. W. Department who are on tour

| Names                  | Rank                        | Period of Leave | From which Date | When Return |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Cob J Goddard Rk       | 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade       | 30 months       | 13 April 1878   | 13 April 78 |
| Mr J W Ball            | 4 <sup>th</sup> Leo         | 2 years         | 5 May 1878      | 5 April 78  |
| Mr G Brickwell         | 4 <sup>th</sup> Leo         | Leo             | 6 May 78        | 7 May 1878  |
| Mr D Wybran            | 4 <sup>th</sup> Leo         | Leo             | 1 June 78       | 2 June 78   |
| Mr C B J A Hounslow Rk | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Leo         | Leo             | 12 July 78      | 13 July 78  |
| Mr P O'Callaghan       | 4 <sup>th</sup> Leo         | 4 years         | 31 Aug 1878     | 1 Sept 78   |
| Mr J M Callahan        | 4 <sup>th</sup> Leo         | 2 years         | 10 Sept 1878    | 11 Nov 78   |
| Captain A C Smith      | 1 <sup>st</sup> Leo         | 20 months       | 22 June 78      | 23 Feb 79   |
| Mr A C Sanford         | 1 <sup>st</sup> Leo         | 22 months       | 29 April 79     | 2 March 79  |
| Mr J C Laminier        | 4 <sup>th</sup> Leo         | 2 years         | 12 March 79     | 13 Nov 79   |
| Mr D Luchie Rk         | 4 <sup>th</sup> Leo         | Leo             | 20 April 79     | 21 April 79 |
| Major H Shalley Rk     | 1 <sup>st</sup> Leo         | Leo             | 6 May 79        | 6 May 79    |
| Mr J W Blissett Rk     | Supr Eng 1 <sup>st</sup> Gr | Leo             | 21 May 79       | 22 Nov 79   |
| Cob J W Trischer Rk    | Supr Eng 1 <sup>st</sup> Gr | Leo             | 22 July 79      | 23 July 79  |
| Mr R E Storer          | 4 <sup>th</sup> Leo         | Leo             | 22 Sept 79      | 23 Sept 79  |
| Mr M A Goodenough      | 4 <sup>th</sup> Leo         | Leo             | 12 Oct 79       | 13 Oct 79   |

AB. 29-1078

Gobt. of 1878; Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.



To *The Chief Eng<sup>r</sup>. for the*

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

*G. O. 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 1878, No. 8,220*

Nos.

*Specimen of the  
timber of the  
timber hereafter made to  
strengthen the*