Rev. Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following.

No. 3,158.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 11th November 1879.

Read the following letter from W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Collector of the Godavari District, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 27th October 1879, No. 292 :—

As directed in G.O., 13th January last, No. 68, Revenue Department, I have the honor to report that inquiries have been made through the Deputy Tahsildar of the Kottapalli Division, in whose jurisdiction the village of Gommalladoddi is situate, regarding the cause of the breach that occurred in November last in the bund of the Konitivari Tank.

2. The Supervisor in charge of the Rajahmundry Division in his letter to the District Engineer of the 8th November 1878, No. 41-C, complains that the breach in question is mainly due to the wilful neglect of the villagers to keep open the end of the tank notwithstanding his repeated positive orders to that effect.

3. The Deputy Tahsildar that made a local inquiry says that there is nothing to support the Public Works Officer in his contention. The Tahsildar of the taluk sends some correspondence among which are to be found reports of the village officers of Gummalladoddi regarding a sluice newly built by the Public Works Department in the tank in question. In July and August 1878, the village officers complained to the Tahsildar that the sluice was damaged immediately as it was buit in chunam, which was soon washed away by the falling rains ; that the water in the tank was escaping through the sluice ; and that they apprehended danger to the tank if steps were not taken to prevent it. Steps were at once taken by the Tahsildar to strengthen the bund and the work was chiefly done by the villagers themselves.

4. Now I understand that the Supervisor allows that the breach occurred on the 5th November, the date of the first cyclone, and knowing what had taken place regarding the tank before the cyclone, I am not prepared to charge the ryots with any wilful nor culpable neglect of duty. The Supervisor in his letter of the 21st March 1879 to the Executive Engineer of the range alleges that the Village Munsif and certain ryots admitted that they closed the escapes of the tank thinking that there would be no more rains and that he found certain pegs driven at the place where the villagers closed the end of the tank from passing down the surplus freely. How this may be I cannot say.

5. Under the circumstances however, I think that no further notice need be taken of the complaint made.

6. Then in regard to the general complaint of the escapes being kept closed by the ryots, I beg to observe that I have ascertained from the Supervisor that no other cases were brought by name to the notice of the Revenue authorities before the breaches occurred. Mr. Johnson says that no intimation was given to him at the time, that remission has been given, and that a mere assumption on the part of an officer deserves but small weight. I agree in this view.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G.O., dated 13th January 1879, No. 68.

2. The Board think the matter may be allowed to drop.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of the Godavari District.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

Order thereon 4th December 1879 No. 4195

The Government accept the Collector's conclusion.

True Extract

J. H. Scott
Asst. Secy. to Govt.

To The Public Works Department

C. Stott

1879.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

To,

THE SECRETARY TO GOVT.,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Dated November 11*th.*

Printed 19*th.*

Received

PROCEEDINGS, 11TH NOVEMBER 1879, No. 3,158.

NOVEMBER.

No. 3,158.

Breach of Konitivari Tank Bund—in Godavari District.—Submitting letter from Collector regarding —.