

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Irrigation.

READ—the following letter from G. T. WALCH, Esq., Executive Engineer, South Arcot Division, to the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, dated Pondicherry, 10th November 1884, No. A-46 :—

Since writing my letter, No. A-45, of this morning, I have received two letters from the Chidambaram sub-divisional officer, copies of which and of their enclosures (6th, 7th and 8th) I send herewith.

2. I have also received a report of 7th instant from Guddilam anicut superintendent, which fills me with fear for the Vanamadevi anicut, as he states that, during the previous night, water topped the anicut wings, then breached the embankment, and “the said wing-walls on both sides and the embankment except front wall were attacked with rapid current and carried off by flood waters, and even the front wall of the wing is in danger of being carried away.” Lieutenant Keenan is, I believe, at the place.

3. At Tiruvadi anicut the water was, at 8 P.M. on 6th (the latest news I have), 10 feet over crest; the highest in 1880 was 8 feet 3 inches.

No. 3143.

Overseer Masilamony Mudaliyar wrote on the 6th November that on getting near Laulpett, the previous evening, after partly swimming and walking through water 4 feet to 5 feet deep, “wherever I turned my eyes it was all one sheet of water. Khan Sahib’s canal and Rajavoikal are in one. There are several breaches in Rajavoikal. In the southern weir of Veeranam tank the water stood on the—

4th from .8 to 3.0 feet over crest.

5th noon 4.0 ”

6th morning 3.5 ”

In 1880 the water reached 2.9 over crest. There is no flood in Coleroon.”

2. Assistant Engineer Mr. Ashpital wrote on the 7th : “Walajah tank is breached for a width of 50 yards. Communication between this (Shatiatope anicut) and Walajah tank is only kept open by catmarans, as there are considerable breaches in the trunk road. I do not know whether the Walajah weirs still exist or not, and can get no information, as they have been submerged up to date; but I expect they have sustained a great deal of damage. I do not think there will be any more damage in Walajah tank, as the breach is so large: but I am afraid the tanks below, notably the Perumal tank, must be having a bad time.

“The whole country is under water, and it is impossible to say what damage has been done. The Coleroon has not yet been reported to be in flood. I am almost in a state of famine. Fortunately I have a supply of oatmeal. At Shatiatope anicut—

“Rainfall on the 5th in 24 hours 1.85 inches

Do. on the 6th in do. 9.60 ”

“Depth of water on anicut crest, 5th, 8.0 to 7.0 feet.

Do. do. 6th, 4.8 to 5.3 ”

Do. do. 6 A.M., 7th, 7.2 ”

Do. do. 9-30 ,, 7th, 8.2 ”

3. Mr. Ashpital wrote again on the 8th:—

“ I went along the Veeranam tank yesterday, and found no danger to the bund, water still 4 feet below top of bund. The river rose so rapidly last night that I began to think there was danger, and issued orders to warn the headmen of the villages to be ready to raise a small bund on the top of the bank when water rose to 12 feet on the crest of the anicut. The water has gone down to 9·5 feet on anicut crest, and is falling. I still get no reports from other parts of the taluk, but I believe the damage to masonry works is small, though I am afraid Khan Sahib's canal bank must be almost entirely swept away. Vadavar is safe up to date, and has been acting as a surplus channel to Veeranam tank.

“ The Veeranam tank rose only 1 foot during the night, and the water on crest of anicut to 11·3, and is now only 9·5 feet. I shall go to Walajah tank if possible.

“ Rainfall on 7th, 1·25 inches.

“ Water on Shatiatope anicut crest on 7th at noon 8·5 feet.

Do.	do.	do.	6 P.M. 9·5 ”
Do.	do.	do.	11 ” 11·3 ”
Do.	do.	do.	8th, 6 A.M. 9·5 ”

Between 6 P.M. of 3rd and 6 P.M. of 4th rainfall at Shatiatope anicut reported to be 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.”

BANGALORE, (Signed) H. L. PRENDERGAST, Colonel, R.E.,
16th November 1884. Superintending Engineer, V Circle.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

ORDER—dated 21st November 1884, No. 1049 I., Public Works.

The Government regret to hear of the damages caused by floods in the South Arcot district.

2. A further report from the Superintending Engineer will be awaited.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Colonel, R.E.,
Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Superintending Engineer, V Circle.
” Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
” Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
” Revenue Department.

Exd. E. Fernandez.
Spare Copies

IRRIGATION.

Govt. of (1884) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated November, 21st.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 21st Nov. 1884, No. 1049 I.

NOVEMBER.

Floods in the South Arcot District

Report of damages caused by —.

24TH NOVEMBER 1884, No. 1297, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th November 1884, No. 3921 :—

Read—the following letter from A. CRUICKSHANK, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 6th November 1884, No. 561 :—

I have the honor to report, for the Board's information, that there has been incessant rain here from noon of the 3rd instant. The quantity that has fallen from that date to this is as follows :—

Date.	Rainfall
4th	8.85 inches.
5th	5.88 „
6th	5.55 „

and the rain has not yet ceased. The Ponníár as well as the Gadilam are in full flood, and water is standing all round Cuddalore. The railway line has been breached in two or three places south of Cuddalore, and the running of trains between Cuddalore and Porto Novo has been stopped.

Resolution—dated 18th November 1884, No. 3921.

Submitted for the information of Government.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) G. MACKENZIE,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of South Arcot.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th November 1884, No. 3947 :—

Read—the following letter from A. CRUICKSHANK, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 10th November 1884, No. 563 :—

I regret to have to report, in continuation of my letter of the 6th instant, No. 561, that the rainfall from noon on Thursday to noon on Friday exceeded that of any of the three previous days. It was 11.75 inches, and this unusual downpour caused the river Gadilam to rise rapidly and overflow its banks on both sides, in consequence of which great damage has been done to house and other property, and all the roads in and around Cuddalore have been completely destroyed. On Tuesday the river had risen considerably, and in the evening when I went to see it, the water had begun to cover the side of the Old Town road. On Wednesday morning when I went to Old Town a good part of the road was covered with one or two feet of water. In Old Town there was a little water only on the road which passes the entrance to the railway

station which had come from the channel by the side of the road. There was water standing in two or three low-lying places on the Bandipaliam road. I went to see the Mount Copper tank which I heard had been breached, and I found that the bund had been breached just close by the tunnel across the supply channel. The cause of this seemed to be that two only of the shutters of the surplus sluice in the supply channel had been removed. I had all the others removed immediately. The breach is only such as can be easily repaired by kudimaramut, and due notice will be taken of the neglect of the village officers to remove the shutters. I returned through Tirupapuliyur, and I saw no water standing there. As is usual when there are heavy freshes in the Gadilam, water was running across the road from the Gadilam bridge towards the railway station. On Thursday everything was much the same as it was on Wednesday. On the night between Thursday and Friday there was a heavy and an incessant fall of rain. On Friday morning water which had found its way from the river was rushing down the Semandilam road past the Post office and across the open plain, generally called the maidan, behind the cutcherry. Nearly the whole of the road to the Gadilam bridge was covered with water two or three feet deep. I crossed the bridge, but I found it impossible to go to Old Town or to Tirupapuliyur. Four men were coming from Old Town when two of them, afraid to face the current running near the place where the Surappen Naiken Chavadi road meets the Old Town road, took refuge on a tree by the side of the road. I had them rescued with very great difficulty. When crossing the Gadilam bridge a second time with a view to see about the rescuing of these men, I observed a crack in one of the arches on the south-side of the bridge, and ordered the constable on duty at the bridge not to allow any carts to go on the bridge, but this was hardly necessary as no one could proceed after crossing the bridge in any direction. At this time the water in the river was rising, and between one and two o'clock two of the arches fell. It is said the water began to subside after this. It may have done so a little in the roads, but the river was very full on Saturday morning. Other two arches fell during the night between Friday and Saturday. During the same night the Ponniar gave cause for alarm. About twelve or one o'clock it rose, and a little water found its way over its bank at two low-lying places, one near the Nellikuppam road and one near a bathing place on the river road, but it soon began to subside again. When I saw it in the morning it was going down. On Sunday morning I went by boat from Fort St. David to Old Town accompanied by Dr. Robertson and Mr. Norfor. Huts had fallen in several places, but Old Town did not appear to have suffered so much as Pudupoliam, which lies close by the river near the bridge. The bridge across the backwater on the Old Town road was badly damaged, and the road washed away on each side of it. It will have to be taken down. On returning from Old Town I went across to Tirupapuliyur to see what damage had been done there. The floods have caused sad havoc there. Many houses have been washed down, and there are many in a very tottering condition. The people say that the water-way of the river has been narrowed near the railway girder bridge, and that about a hundred yards above it the water found its way through a low-lying cocoanut tope and swept down into the town. The water also came into the town with great violence at another place where a passage has been provided for people to pass under the line. The people are very clamorous against the railway embankment, and say it has been the cause of all their sufferings, but it seems to me that this is a question which had better be left to the decision of professional men, for while it is a fact that water came in both from above it and below it, it might be contended that it helps to protect the town. They contend that much more water-way should be provided in the railway embankment, but it would be much better to prevent the river water from coming into the town at all than to provide a way for it when it does come. Water is said to have come from the river at the same place it did in the great flood of 1864, and it will be for the Public Works Department to say whether something should not be done at this place to prevent a recurrence of what happened in 1864 and has now happened. This department will also be able to determine whether there is reason to suppose that the construction of the girder bridge has in any way affected the course of the river. I have also visited Bandipaliam, and, though many huts have come down there also, the damage done is

nothing compared with that done in Tirupapuliyur. I am thankful to say that the loss of life has been very little so far as I know. I have heard of three or four only having been drowned or killed.

2. As many poor people have not only lost their houses but also the grain they had and were suffering from want of food, I have placed Rs. 450 at the disposal of the Cuddalore Tahsildar and ordered him to supply food to such as are unable to buy it for themselves. I doubt very much whether this will be sufficient to give relief to all that need it, and I request that Government will be pleased to authorize me to expend 1,000 rupees for this purpose if required. It will also be necessary to give the poor people assistance to enable them to rebuild their houses, and I would therefore ask that Government be moved to grant money for this purpose, say 5,000 rupees. Due care will be taken to assist those only who cannot rebuild their houses without help.

3. The convicts have commenced to repair the roads, and I trust Government will be good enough to order their labor to be given free. The Commissioners are to meet to-morrow to consider the steps to be taken to put things into order again, and they will doubtless require great assistance from Government. The bridge will have to be rebuilt at the cost of Government, as the money at the command of the Commissioners will not be sufficient to repair the roads and rebuild tunnels across them.

4. Communication has been so interrupted that I have as yet heard but little as to what has occurred in the interior of the district, but I fear from the little I have heard that the rainfall has been very heavy everywhere, and that public works have been destroyed and roads rendered impassable in all parts of the district.

5. As soon as the several Divisional officers submit reports with details as to the damage done in their divisions, I shall at once communicate the same to the Board.

Resolution—dated 19th November 1884, No. 3947.

The Board approve of the Collector's action as reported in paragraph 2 of his letter, and beg to recommend to Government that Rs. 6,000 be placed at his disposal for the necessary relief, and that he also be empowered to make use of convict labor free of charge.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) G. MACKENZIE,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ the Collector of South Arcot.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th November 1884, No. 3944 :—

Read—the following letter from A. CRUICKSHANK, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 14th November 1884, No. 569 :—

From my reports of the 10th and the 12th instant, Nos. 563 and 567, the Board will have gathered that considerable damage must have been caused to the crops in this district by the heavy rains which fell on the 6th, 7th and 8th instant. Full information as to the extent of the damage done to public works of irrigation has not yet been received, but from the reports coming in from some of the Divisional officers and Tahsildars, it appears that several tanks have been breached, that the crops raised on wet fields have been in many instances washed away, that many fields have been covered with silt, and that crops which have not been washed away have been very seriously injured by too much water. Every inquiry is being made to ascertain the extent of the injury done, and the ryots are being made to close such of the breaches in the tanks by kudimaramut as can be so closed.

2. The Board are already aware from the monthly season reports that the cultivation of dry crops in this fasli up to September last was small compared with that at the same time last fasli, and the yield from a great extent of the land cultivated has been very poor owing to want of seasonable rains. It will be certainly some months before the ryots in general obtain any produce by the sale of which they can procure money to pay the Government dues. Many petitions are now being received from the ryots representing that the crops raised by them have been swept away by the floods and applying for pecuniary aid to enable them to recultivate their lands. Some ryots have also applied to have the collection of the Government dues postponed till they are in a position to pay them. The first kist of this fasli is now falling due, and it is absolutely necessary that some indulgence be shown to those ryots who have suffered. I have the honor therefore to request that the Board will be pleased to sanction the postponement of the collection of the kist till January next in those parts of the district which may be found, on the receipt of full information from the Divisional officers, to have suffered severely from the unprecedented floods we have now had.

Resolution—dated 19th November 1884, No. 3944.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Collector is authorized to postpone till January the December kist in any parts of the district in which he considers it necessary to do so.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) G. MACKENZIE,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
,, the Collector of South Arcot.

ORDER—dated 24th November 1884, No. 1297, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The Government sanction from Provincial Funds a grant of Rs. 6,000 to be applied as proposed in paragraph 2 of the

Collector's letter for the relief of persons who have suffered from the floods. The proposal to use convict labor, free of payment, for repairing the roads of the town will be dealt with in the Judicial Department. The Government approve of the Board's order authorizing the Collector to suspend collections until January next wherever such a measure may be found necessary.

2. The question of reconstructing the Gadilam bridge will be carefully considered in the Public Works Department. It is understood that this is not the first time in which the bridge has given way. The allegation that the flooding of Tirupapuliyūr is mainly due to the water-way having been contracted near the railway bridge will also receive attention in that department.

(True Extract.)

W. H. French
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant-General.
,, the Financial Department.
,, the Judicial Department.
,, the Public Works Department.

Exd. W. H. French.

80 Copies.

2022

B. No 3027. Wap 9 Dec. /84

Order Thereon

No. of
Command to the A.C.
T. Civils, who will report
on the question of
reconstructing the
Gatilam bridge.

2. The Canal Engineer
for Railways will
inquire & report re:
- putting the alleged
contraction of the water-
way at Tampapuli.

Cy.
6.12.84
W.S.
6.12.84

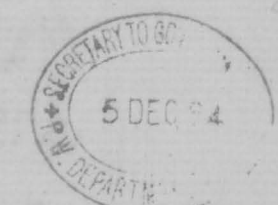
n.B. This is a village, not a river.

See T. Civils
C. for Rys. South S. S. C. for
C. for S. S. C.
Decd. 10-12-84.
Jd. 507
12/12

237W Mch 10/22

Govt. of (1884) Madras.

REVENUE.



20 SC

Issued

Recd. 5/12/84

Encl.

G.O., 24th November 1884, No. 1297.

B. No 3027. Wap 9 Dec. /84

NOVEMBER.

Floods

in South Arcot.—Orders passed on papers relating to the occurrence of —.

With order
Jd. 507
12/12