M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2153 Press ~~Mis.~~

300. 301

Dated 23 — 11 — 1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 23rd November 1864.

No. 390. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st November 1864:—

Read the following letter from G. THORNHILL, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 10th November 1864, No. 247.

SIR,

1. I have already reported to the Chief Secretary to Government the occurrence of a tremendous storm at this station on the night of the 1st instant.

2. I was obliged to despatch my letters without taking copies of them, owing to the utter confusion and destruction of every thing. So I venture to ask you to apply to Government for copies.

3. I now forward a rough abstract of the reports I have received from the different Talooks, detailing the ravages in their respective ranges.

4. All information is at present of course very imperfect; but there is enough to show the Board how fearful has been the visitation.

5. The fury of the wind alone would have caused a calamity almost without parallel, but when to that was added the inundation of the sea, the nature of the disaster is such that I cannot find words to express it.

6. I am within bounds when I say that one-fourth of the population of the town has been destroyed, and probably three-fourths of the property or more.

7. The Cutcherry was completely swept by the inundation, the Treasury thrown down, as well as the Native Record room; the treasure was preserved, and has now been dug out of the ruins. The Stamps, both Postage and Judicial, are all gone, and we require an immediate supply.

8. Of the Native records I fancy not more than one-tenth will be recovered.

9. The English records are in a better state, those in the lower shelves of the almirahs alone having been destroyed.

10. I have re-opened the Office in my own house, for as yet the Cutcherry is untenable. The Board will have some idea of the nature of the flood when I tell them that dead buffaloes had to be removed from the verandah.

11. For many days nothing could be attended to, but burying the dead, and even now hundreds of corpses remain above ground.

12. Of the Salt at Buntoomilly, 2,40,000 Maunds have been destroyed, 75,000 alone remain; at Munganapoody none remains; at Nizampatam the loss has not yet been fully ascertained. At China Ganjam it was less, as the sea flood was not high there.

13. I will not at this time attempt to estimate the loss of crops. I hope the wet crops will not prove to be seriously injured, but I fear the cholum and other dry crops will have suffered greatly.

14. I shall report more fully to the Board on the state of affairs in a few days, but I think I have said enough to show that the calamity which has overwhelmed us is without parallel.

15. For several days there was but one well of fresh water in the place. In my own compound I buried four corpses, and the carcases of about fifty animals; in a neighbouring compound, the human dead amounted to twenty.

16. I am thankful to say that matters are looking better now. Mr. Wilson promptly succoured us with supplies from Bezwada, and a large body of Police have also arrived. Supplies are also now flowing in from the surrounding country.

ABSTRACT.

Arzi from the Salt Superintendent at Chinna Ganjam, dated 1st November 1864.

1. Reporting that many houses and trees were thrown down by the storm, and the grass on the heaps over the salt platforms blown away,

and all the ditches around the platforms filled with salt water; that the Police station houses, &c., fell down. That things such as tents, &c., belonging to the Sub-Collector, valued at four or five thousand Rupees, were damaged; and at 12 o'clock on the night of 1st November, he secured himself at the bungalow of the Salt Deputy Collector.

Arzi from Nandigamah Tahsildar, dated 1st November 1864, No. 107.

2. States that he received reports that some of the telegraph posts fell down between Bezoarah and the Nizam's frontier, that he sent peons to have them replaced, and also wrote to the Sub-Magistrate of Juggiahpetta to have the posts replaced beyond Juggiahpetta.

Arzi from the Tahsildar of Gudivada, No. 576, dated 2nd November 1864.

3. That much damage is apprehended from the effects of the storm, and that the crops appeared to be much damaged.

Arzi from the Tahsildar of Nundigamah, No. 105, dated 2nd November 1864.

4. That trees, &c., have been torn down by the storm which occurred on the 1st November.

Arzi from Repalli Tahsildar, 2nd November 1864.

5. Reports that by the storm of the 1st instant, the roof of some houses and tiles as well as some houses and trees fell down at Repalli, but only two persons were killed; that at Pullaputta and at Garekapad villages three persons were killed by the fall of the houses; that reports have been received that at 3 o'clock on the same night sea water come into Nizampatam, whereby many houses fell down and people were killed. The Tahsildar adds, that he having been attacked with fever, sent the Talook Serishtadar and the Police Inspector to Nizampatam and other villages to enquire and report upon the extent of this injury.

Arzi from the Sea Custom Assistant Superintendent at Nizampatam, dated 2nd November 1864.

6. Reports that from the effects of the storm on the night of the 1st November, many houses and walls fell down at Nizampatam after sea water came into the village and houses, and some few individuals died; that all the godowns at the port, and the roof of the Sea Custom House fell down; and the Sea Custom records are destroyed.

Arzi from the Salt Superintendent of Nizampatam, No. 16, dated 2nd November 1864.

7. Reporting that there was a storm on the night of the 1st instant; that the sea water came upon Nizampatam and destroyed men, cattle, houses including his own, and trees; that some of the boats were washed away to a distance of half or three-quarters of a mile into the interior; that salt platforms were surrounded by so much water that it was found difficult to approach them, and that he is making preparations to send in coolies to the platforms to secure the salt heaps as far as possible.

Arzi from the Tahsildar of Bapatla Talook, dated 2nd November 1864.

8. Reports that the roof of some houses and walls of thatched houses were thrown down at Bapatla by the storm, that only three persons and some cattle were killed, and many trees fell down, and that two stories of the large goparum of the Temple fell down; adds, that he will report hereafter on the state of the crops.

Report from the Kurnam of Chinna Pondraka, &c., villages, dated 3rd November 1864.

9. Reports that many houses were thrown down by the storm at the villages of Patchapuram and Buntoomilly, &c., and nearly 150 men and some cattle were killed; and that the people have been suffering very much for want of good water to drink; adds, moreover, that sea water having spread over the earth there is no fodder for cattle and no good water to drink.

Arzi from the Sea Custom Assistant Superintendent at Nizampatam, dated 3rd November 1864.

10. Reports that on the night of 1st November one hundred people were killed at Kottapallem by the storm; that many houses fell down; many cattle were killed; and the boats were blown away, and that the people are suffering very much for want of good water.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 23rd November 1864.

Arzi from the Salt Superintendent at Chinna Ganjam, dated 3rd November 1864.

11. Reports that he is getting the damaged salt heaps re-covered with grass, and that a fresh report will be sent to the Salt Deputy Collector regarding the wastage occurred.

Arzi from do. do. at Buntoomilly, No. 12, dated 3rd November 1864.

12. That by the storm occurred on the 1st November 1864, men and much cattle have been destroyed, and also salt has been lost to the extent of 2,08,186½ Maunds.

Arzi from the Tahsildar of Bezoarah, No. 179, dated 3rd November 1864.

13. That there was a storm on the night of the 1st November 1864, and that there was a loss of thirteen men and some cattle in the village of Vidyadharapuram near Bezoarah.

Arzi from the 2nd Class Sub-Magistrate of Bezoarah, No. 51, dated 4th November 1864.

14. Reporting that thirty-two men and sixty-nine cattle have been destroyed by the storm on the night of November 1st, in four of the villages of the Bezoarah Talook, as gathered from the reports rendered by the Cultivation Inspectors up to 4th November 1864.

Arzi from the Tahsildar of Repalli, dated 5th November 1864.

15. Reports that at Kotta[illegible]he hamlet of Moondraidu, one hundred people were killed; that severe damage was caused to the dry crops, and that the wet crops have been submerged and withered; that until the water evaporates the state of the wet crops cannot be ascertained. He requests, moreover, that the people whose houses fell down may be allowed to have the fallen Palmira trees without payment, for repairing and re-building their houses.

Arzi from the Village Moonsiff at Ghuntasala in Davarakota Purganah.

16. Reports that the people and cattle have not suffered from the effects of the storm with the exception of two men and a few cattle, which were killed; that many corpses (of which no account can be given, and which have been carried there by the sea water) are lying on the boundaries of this and of the adjoining villages; that many building materials were carried there by the water, but thieves have been taking them away.

(Signed) G. THORNHILL, *Collector.*

MASULIPATAM,
10*th November* 1864.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

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1. The Board desire to express their deep sympathy with the numerous sufferers by this terrible and wide-spread disaster, and to assure the Collector of their readiness to give the most favorable consideration to any proposals for the alleviation of the distress which may fall in any way within the Board's province.

2. The suspension of kists; the grant of liberal remissions where really needed; the employment to the fullest extent in their legitimate direction of the accumulated proceeds, if any, of charitable endowments in the Collector's hands as agent for the Board, under Regulation 7 of 1817; and the temporary relaxation of the Jungle Conservancy Rules, where necessary, to supply means of re-roofing the ruined houses of the inhabitants, occur to the Board for this purpose; but whatever suggests itself to the Collector as desirable, and not calculated to hamper the Government in doing to the utmost what is needed to relieve suffering, will meet with the Board's most favorable consideration. The Local Fund cannot be better employed than in repairing the communications, and removing what is calculated to breed disease.

3. Steps will at once be taken to replenish the stock of Stamps.

4. The Board are not in a position to suggest the best means of replenishing the salt stores where there may be pressing need of this necessary of life; but these will doubtless have occurred to the Collector; and the Board trust that the facilities afforded by the canals will render the Godavery stores available to supply immediately much of the deficiency created by the flood when

the weather will admit of carriage by sea; this route will also be available for obtaining supplies from the neighbouring coast Districts, and the Collectors of Nellore and the Godavery Districts will be warned of the demand which is likely to be made on their stores.

5. The Collector and all the officers of the District have the Board's hearty sympathy in their trying position, and may rest assured of any support the Board may be able to afford them.

6. The Board rely confidently on the best exertions of all to help to the utmost of their power. They have observed with much satisfaction the mention in the Government orders of Mr. Brandt's good services on the occasion of the flood, and note the ready aid afforded by Mr. Wilson from Bezwada.

No. 301. ORDER THEREON, 23rd November 1864, No. 2,153.

Miscellaneous.

The Government have placed at the Collector's disposal the means of relieving the immediate necessities of the sufferers, and await his further recommendations.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Editor's table.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

P.O. 14—1

No. 2153.

The Govt. have placed at the Coll.r's disposal the means of relieving the immediate necessities of the sufferers and await his further recommendations.—

J D S

Jt. Govt. George
23d. Novem.r 64

Rd Table

11 Copies Table Bd of Rev. Despt 25 Nov.

M.B.O. 14—1

Rev = 1864 Dept
Pro: of Govt for 9 Nov
No. 3041-

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 21st
Desp 21 } November 1864
Rec 22

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No

No 2153 25 Nov

Expressing sympathy with the sufferess by the late hurricane suggesting measures for alleviating their miseries stating that steps will be taken for replenishing the stock of stamps and offering assurances of supports to the Collector and all the Officers of the District in their trying position.

William Order

No 300 & 301.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.