M.R.O. 14—5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2873 Press ~~Mis.~~

559. 560

Dated 21—10— 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
24th October 1866.

No. 559. Read the following letter from the Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George; dated Trichinopoly, 20th October 1866, No. 49 :—

1. I have the honor to report, for the information of Government, that the late heavy rains and consequent unusually high freshes have done serious damage in the Trichinopoly and Moosery Talooks of this District. On Monday night the Ayyar, which rises in the Kolimalai Hills on the confines of Salem, and flows into the Cavery just above the upper anicut, came down with unusual volume* and velocity; its waters unduly increased by the bursting of several tanks pressed against the crown of the arches, and even parapet walls of the six-arch bridge connecting the Salem road; a scour doubtless commenced through the then insufficient water-way, which the foundations were unable to stand, and five out of the six arches were totally destroyed. This is the third time the bridge at this point has been washed away, and it would appear that a girder rather than a masonry bridge is what is required for this river. I have made arrangement with boats, so that traffic may be impeded as little as possible.

* Three feet higher than highest fresh on record.

2. Government may remember that the head of the Paravallay Channel is situated a short distance from the Ayyar bridge, and receives its supply both from the Ayyar and Cavery as the freshes permit. Between the bridge and the head sluice there is a strong embankment, which prevents the waters of Ayyar or Cavery encroaching upon the large extent of cultivation to the north of the Trichinopoly road, and turns the stream into the Paravallay head sluice. This embankment had been lately strengthened, but on Monday night it was unable to bear the immense strain of both Ayyar and Cavery waters then simultaneously in flood, and a large breach was the result.

3. I went to the spot and endeavoured to have the gap stopped, as the body of water flowing through has converted the whole tract of country skirting the north of the road from the anicut to Trichinopoly, and even a large portion of the Lalgudi* Division itself, into one sheet of water, amongst which the villages stand out like islands, huts have been destroyed extensively. It was a sad sight to see the water pouring through this breach 100 feet long and 12 feet deep (including height of original bund), and flowing over crops ready to be reaped, but now submerged, and I fear the losses incurred will be very extensive. At present the Engineers on the spot say it is impracticable to close this breach, but I am having all the necessary materials prepared, and immediate advantage will be taken of any fall in the rivers to avert further damage.

* Cusbah Lalgudi is twenty miles from the spot where the breach occurred. There are minor breaches caused by this major breakage, but if we can stop the latter, the former are rendered harmless.

4. The Tahsildar remains to give all aid, but at present both Ayyar and Cavery† are in full flood, and running with great velocity. As a set off against these mishaps, we may consider that if this breach had not occurred, and thus greatly diminished the strain upon the anicut, that structure might have suffered

† Now 11½ feet deep.

considerably. If we can, moreover, manage to close the breach within a reasonable time, the damage may be greatly palliated, as fortunately paddy, and especially car paddy, stands a deal of submersion. These ample rains too must have conferred immense benefits upon our upland tracts, ever ready to receive a larger down pour than they usually obtain. In Lalgudi and in Moosery floods and breaches have occurred, and near Moosery the Salem road has been greatly injured.

5. The extent of damage to cultivation in Lalgudi cannot be as yet known, but in some portions of that Division the minor rivers which flow into the Coleroon are owing to its present high floods converted into streams, *from* instead of drainage streams *to* the Coleroon, and thus cause extensive inundation. My chief attention is directed to the Ayyar breach, upon which all available resources should be brought to bear. I return there to-morrow, and hope before long to be able to report more favorably.

No. 560. ORDER THEREON, 24th October 1866, No. 2,873.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Department Public Works and Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Collector of Trichinopoly.
,, the Editors' Table.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Reported to England
D 26 October No 48 of 1866.

No. 2873.

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W.O.L. S. D. S.

24 Oct 66

Ed Table

Order 1

21 Copies Table Mr Dept Corpd 24 Oct
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No. 559 & 560

Rev. 1866 Depart
Pro of Govt No. 3735
from
The Collector of Trichinopoly
to
The Secretary to Government Revenue Department
Fort St. George

Dated 20th Octr 1866
Rec'd 22d.

Ed'r
No. 49.
Mr
Pro of the Board of Revenue
No 3936

No 2873-24 Octr

Reporting on the destructive damage done in various districts by the late heavy rains and consequent unusual high freshes.

Written Order