M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-23.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	15-39	Press Mis.—
61-62 Dated	4-6-	№ 1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Re
1535

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 4th June 1868.

No. 61. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department :—

Passing orders regarding the damage which the Masulipatam canal received on the night of the 13th September last. } (Here enter 28th May 1868, No. 1,695.)

No. 62. ORDER THEREON, 4th June 1868, No. 1,539.

Irrigation, No. 1.

Communicated to the Revenue Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. SEWELL,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Works Department, No. 1,695.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 699. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Masulipatam, 27th April 1868, No. 20 :—

1. I have the honor to forward Proceedings* of the Board of Revenue, No. 478, dated 21st January 1868, relative to a wilful breach, made by persons unknown, in the Bunder canal in September last, whereby the canal was drained dry, the navigation stopped for two days, the irrigation of a large tract of country cut off, and (as I have been informed by the Zemindar of Sullapully) about 8,000 acres of cultivation in the Davercotta Purgunnah flooded and ruined.

* Requested to be returned.

2. You will observe that the Acting Collector dismissed the Moonsiffs of the villages whose lands were benefited by the breach, but the Board of Revenue do not consider that the fines on the villages, which Mr. Wilson recommended, would be legal.

3. I think such extensive and wilful damage should be punished more severely and widely than by the dismissal of some village Moonsiffs, who, perhaps, were unaware of the resolution to breach the banks. I therefore solicit the orders of Government on the matter.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st January 1868, No. 478.

Read the following letter from W. WILSON, Esq., Acting Collector of the Kistna District, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 27th November 1867, No. 426.

1. On the 21st September last, I received from the Superintending Engineer a letter, No. 140, dated 19th September, enclosing a report, No. 125, dated 18th idem, from the Executive Engineer in charge of the 7th Range, of the wilful breach, by certain persons then unknown, of the Bunder canal near the Iynampoody tunnel at the twenty-eighth mile. The Superintending Engineer thought it desirable considering the two days' obstruction to traffic, the loss to irrigation, the waste of officer's time, the conduct of certain villagers in refusing labor and materials to close the breach, and the non-existence of any pressing danger to crops from flooding, that a "stern example" should be made. With a view to ascertain, if possible, the actual offenders, I directed the subordinate Magistrates of Bunder and Noozeed to proceed to the spot and there make inquiry. I was not very hopeful that the result would be favorable, though backed up by the threat to recommend to Government on all round fine on all concerned, if they should fail to give up the names of the persons who had been the principals in the mischief.

2. From reports Nos. 542 and 41, dated 11th October 1867, received from these officers, I find that, as I expected, it is impossible to fix the guilt on any particular individuals. I have, therefore, had a return made out of the lands actually flooded and their owners in the three villages.

	Names of owners.
1. Iynampoody... ...	Tirumala Venkatasawmy, and about seventy others ;
2. Mullapudy	Pakkali Lachmanna, and eighteen others ;
3. Velpoor	Vinjamoor Rammanujah Charloo and Venkataveerraghavaswamy ;

the lands of which alone I have ascertained by inquiry to have been flooded, which would, therefore, be the only lands which the breach would benefit, and the owners of which might, therefore, reasonably be the offenders. The extent flooded in the several villages is given below :—

Villages.	Extent.
1. Iynampoody	240
2. Mullapudy	34
3. Velpoor...	21

3. The lands of Iynampoody immediately under the breach had thus $1\frac{1}{16}$ per cent. of the flooded area, and the owners thereof may be presumed, for there is nothing whatever in the way of evidence, against individuals, to have been among the persons who cut the bund to pass the flood water from their lands across the canal, and down the Iynampoody drainage-channel. The cost of repairing the breach was Rupees 49-2-2; the whole navigation of the canals was stopped for two days, and a serious diminution of the water supply for irrigation caused by this wilful piece of mischief. All the villages are Zemindary. For wilfully refusing to inform upon the offenders whom they must know very well, I have dismissed the Moonsiffs of the villages wherein lands were flooded; and as a warning to others that such things cannot be permitted, I have the honor to recommend that a fine of Rupees 250 be levied on the village of Iynampoody, and Rupees 50 each on the villages of Mullapudy and Velpoor. I recommend that the fine be levied on all the villagers, as a punishment to such of them as not actual offenders, withhold the names of those who did the mischief, and whom they know very well, but wish to shield from just punishment. In recognition of the services rendered* by Chellasani Linganneedoo, the Village Moonsiff of Bhatlapannumarroo, in supplying labor and materials for the closing of the breach, and as an encouragement to others to do likewise in future, I have the honor to recommend that he be presented with a gold ring of the value of 50 Rupees.

* *Vide* Lieutenant Coaker's letter, paragraph 1.

From Lieutenant W. H COAKER, R E., Assistant Engineer, Kistna District, to the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, dated Masulipatam, 18th September 1867, No. 125.

1. I have the honor to inform you that the main canal was wilfully breached near the Iynampoody tunnel on the night of the 13th instant, by some persons unknown. They succeeded in cutting through the south bank, and were in the act of cutting the north bank, when the arrival of the passenger boats caused them to desist and run away. Their object was to pass the drainage which submerges a large area of land (probably 700 or 800 acres) to the north of canal, across the canal and down the Iynampoody drainage-channel. The lands submerged appertain to the following villages, viz., Iynampoody, Mullapudy, Alupuru, Kannumuru, Kurumaddaly, and Vuruturu, and it may be fairly presumed that the banks were cut by the inhabitants of one or more of these villages. The circumstance was reported to the Lock Goomastah at Veerunky, by the Moonsiff of Bhattlapenumarru, at 2 P. M. on the 14th and he at once proceeded to the spot, and endeavoured to close the breach, but owing to his being unable to procure sufficient straw and posts, he was unable to succeed. He wrote Takeeds to above villages, but not one of them took the slightest notice of them; and the only assistance he obtained was from the village of Bhattlapenumarru, on the south side of the channel; the Moonsiff of which did everything he could, and sent a number of coolies as well as materials. I received a report from the Lock Goomastah on the morning of 15th, and on my arrival at Iynampoody, I found the whole of the navigation boats detained through the insufficiency of water; and the only workmen on the spot were the men from Bhattlapenumarru. The villagers of Iynampoody had refused to give the Goomastah straw, although there were large quantities in the village, and did not assist him in any way; materials were collected during the night, and on the following morning the breach was closed and the bank re-made. Water was admitted in the evening, and the boats were enabled to proceed during the night or early next morning, after having been detained more than two days.

2. The Station Serjeant of Police was made acquainted with the facts of the case, and will endeavour to discover the guilty parties, but the breach was probably made by a combination of the villagers, and he will be unable to bring the matter home to any particular individuals.

3. In conclusion, I beg to add that it appears desirable to enlarge the Iynampoody tunnel, and drainage-channel, so as to render them capable of carrying off the drainage efficiently. The difference of level or "head" on the tunnel, I found to be 2' 4"; and the discharge 23,000 cubic yards per hour, the drainage-channel flowing full.

4. The area to be drained is about 15 square miles, and allowing 4" of rain per day as the maximum, we shall have 2,21,361 cubic yards per hour.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 28th May 1868.

The Board do not understand under what enactment the Acting Collector proposes to inflict the fines in question, or to enforce payment of them. They are not aware of any law or regulation which gives, either to the Board or Collectors, the power of imposing the fines recommended.

No. 700. ORDER THEREON, 28th May 1868, No. 1,695.

IRRIGATION, No. 38.

As the perpetrators of the damage which the Masulipatam canal received on the night of the 13th September last cannot be discovered, the Government are not of opinion that any punishment can be inflicted on the neighbouring villages, but they consider that the offer of a sufficient reward may possibly lead to the identification of the delinquents.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Revenue 1868. Vol.
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Proceedings of the
Govt. in Council Vol.

Dated 28th May 3 May/68.
Received 30th "
Rd. 1605

Rd. 1539.

Comm.d to the
Revenue Board

11th June/68

Rd 11th 1539. 4th June

Passing orders regarding
the damage which
the Mahmudsalam
Canal received on
the night of the
15th Sept. last —
With Order —

11 Copies Letter Bd of Revenue Pro. 22nd Dec. 1695 Desp. 11th

Rec.d 6-1-62