

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	3129	Press
		~~Mis.~~
<i>63-105</i>		
Dated	<i>7th December 1869</i>	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
7th December 1869.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 103. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd December 1869.
From the Acting Collector of Tinnevely, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tinnevely, 26th November 1869, No. 460.

In continuation of my Sub-Collector's letter of the 19th instant, and as promised in my telegram to Government, dated 22nd, copy of which I forwarded to the Board, I have the honour to furnish a detailed report of the disastrous gale, which visited the district on the 16th and 17th instant.

2. The storm set in from the north-west at 4 A.M. on the 16th, having been preceded by heavy rain on the previous night. It continued to rage until midnight of the 17th, when it lulled. Rain fell till the 18th. The fall registered on the coast during forty-eight hours was fifteen inches, and at Tinnevely twelve and three-fourths.

3. On the afternoon of the 15th the barometer stood at 29.90; on the evening of the 16th, it fell to 29.61.

4. At Tuticorin the sea rose to the level of the road, damaging it considerably. Several country craft were driven from their moorings, and came ashore. The Government schooners *Pearl* and *Emily* and the Master Attendant's report-boat also broke from their moorings: the two former were not much damaged; the latter suffered considerably. The steam ship *Margaret Northcote* having proceeded to Columbo with treasure, rode out the gale in safety. The new light-house in progress on Hare Island was destroyed, and about fifty houses fell in the town: no life was lost.

5. Inland the damage has been most disastrous: the most important bridge in the district, which spans the Tambrapurni between Tinnevely and Palamcottah, built in 1842 by the late Soolochanam Moodelliar, is a perfect wreck: four of the middle arches have been completely swept away, and two others are in imminent danger. The destruction of this fine work is a public calamity: all heavy traffic is stopped, and the continuous stream of travellers is now ferried across the river in boats procured from Tuticorin.

6. Nine arches of the seventeen-archbridge over the Vypar, on road No. 2, at Sattur, have been swept away. Four arches out of eleven of the bridge at Ambasamudram over the Tambrapurni have gone, and not a vestige remains of the small bridge over the Nambiar at Tirukurungudi. It was only completed in June.

7. Up to date I have received reports of extensive breaches in one hundred and seventy tanks and thirty-eight channels, including the Kadamba, Velur, Strivycuntum, Periakolum tanks in Tenkarai, the Nanganeri tank in Nanguneri, the large Periakolum at Strivilliputtur and three large tanks at Wartrap. Of the thirty-eight channels breached, the most important are the Paliem, Tinnevely, Keelakul, and Melakal, in Tinnevely Talook, the important Kannadian and Kodagan channels in Ambasamudram: the breaches in all of which are very extensive. The revenue under these channels amounts to Rupees 6,70,000.

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8. The destruction of so many bridges has, of course, seriously interrupted the communications of the district; but the roads also have been much damaged, especially Trunk Road No. 2 and the line between Palamcottah and Tuticorin recently completed. These are so seriously damaged that all heavy traffic is for the time interrupted. The destruction of avenue-trees on these two lines has been considerable.

9. In the town of Tinnevely there was a flood three feet deep; in Strivycuntum five feet; in Alvuritirunagari and Attur the same. Several houses were demolished, and many cattle lost: no loss of life has been reported.

10. My Sub-Collector and Assistants are now in the talooks. I have issued stringent orders to enforce Act I. of 1858, and to carry out the instructions laid down in Board's Circular, No. 57, 9th April 1862, and have communicated with the Superintending Engineer who is daily expected. In the meantime I have, by telegram, requested Government to sanction an immediate grant of Rupees 50,000, as a special case, to meet this unforeseen calamity, and to enable me to carry out the emergent repairs to irrigation-works, upon which so large a revenue now depends.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Board regret to learn that the floods have breached several of the most important tanks and channels in the district, besides numerous smaller works.

3. Under the rain-fed tanks the loss is, of course, unavoidable as regards the present season's crop. Under the channels the Peshanom crop is, at present, two or three months' old, and requires water till the end of March; and there being no reservoirs, it is of course dependant on the daily distribution of river-water by the channels. The revenue involved is estimated by the Collector as over six lacs, and the crop cannot be worth less than from twenty to thirty lacs, which is now at stake, dependant on the resumption of work by the channels within the next few weeks.

4. The Collector reports that he is enforcing the provisions of Act I. of 1858, and the Board entertain no doubt that every possible effort is being made by the officers of the Public Works Department. Looking, however, to the wide-spread nature of the calamity and the enormous amount of property involved in the speedy execution of repairs, the Board urge the necessity of supplementing the district-staff temporarily to the greatest extent to which the requirements of the service elsewhere admit.

No. 104. Telegram from Collector of Tinnevely, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 6th December 1869.

PRAY urge Government to send me immediately two full-power Assistants. Irvine's sight prevents his doing any more work, and Vencat Row's being removed on Special Duty, the district-staff is much below working order. Revenue-officers urgently required for carrying out the present emergent repairs. I have placed Salt Deputy in temporary charge of Head Assistant's Division, which has suffered much.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
7th December 1869.*

No. 105. ORDER THEREON, 7th December 1869, No. 3,129.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government have received with regret the more detailed account of the disasters consequent upon the recent heavy floods which have occurred in the Tinnevely District.

2. In the Proceedings noted in the margin the Collector has been directed to advance funds for such repairs as are immediately necessary, and to avail himself of customary labour for the same purpose to the fullest extent possible.

3. Mr. Grigg will be appointed to the district, and the services of Mr. Campbell, Assistant Collector of Madura, will also be placed temporarily at the Acting Collector's disposal.

4. The Government have learnt from the Superintending Engineer of the Division that Public Works Departmental Staff at present employed in the district is sufficient to meet the emergency.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Collector of Tinnevely.
„ the Collector of Madura.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

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72 Dec 1869 and
Telegrams from College
Permanently 76 Dec 69.

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account of the disaster
consequent upon the
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26 Nov. 1869 No 3058.

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to the fullest extent possible.

Mr. Grieg will be appointed
to the District, and the

Reported to England
Date 31st Dec 1869

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THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

1869, Dec.

Recd.

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G. O. 7th December 1869, No. 3113.

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1869-1870.

Read in the Evening of Dec 1869. Copies
of House Bill and Campbell placed at the dis-
posal of the Collector to assist in carrying out
the most urgent repairs to irrigation works.

services of Mr Campbell
 and Col. of Madras
 will also be placed
 temporarily at the
 Col. of Madras

The Govt have
 learnt from the Sup.
 Engineer of the District
 Division that the Dept. of
 P. W. Departmental Staff
 at present employed in the District
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 to meet the emergency.

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Let from adms

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Collector of Madras

Collector of Madras

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