

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

374

Press

Me.

156-55

Dated

19-5-1876

Me.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

73

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th March 1870.*

No. 154. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th January 1870, No. 398:—

Read the following letter from the Officiating Collector of the Kistna District to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Jaggayapeta, 11th December 1869, No. 373.

In my letter, dated 7th June 1869, No. 173, recorded in the Board's Proceedings, dated 12th July 1869, No. 5,005, I brought to notice the case of four villages that had been inundated by the Kistna River, and I requested that a grant from Local Funds, equal to the amount to be raised by the villagers, might be given to repair the embankment around the villages which had been seriously injured.

2. The Government concurred with the Board that the repair of the bank of a large and important river is not a "Municipal" improvement, and that the cost should be met from Imperial Funds. Accordingly, in G. O., dated 20th July 1869, No. 2,117, Government transferred the papers to the Public Works Department for the provision of the funds required from any available source.

3. Subsequently, I requested in my letter, dated 7th October 1869, Extra No. 122, sanction for the repair of the embankment in the village of Nagayadippa, for which the Superintending Engineer had prepared an estimate amounting to Rupees 935.

4. On the occasion of a recent visit to one of the villages (Penumudi), the ryots came in a body and protested that the Department Public Works were estimating for only a small embankment immediately round their houses, whereas they begged that the old embankment might be repaired which was near the river, and served to protect a larger area. They urged that if the embankment was built immediately round their houses, their danger would be much greater; because they would first be surrounded by flood, and have the means of escape cut off, and thus, as the waters rose, they might all be drowned in their houses. Upon this I addressed myself to the Superintending Engineer in a letter, dated 6th November 1869, Extra No. 375. I have the honour to forward herewith copy of his reply, dated 1st December 1869, Extra No. 15. Colonel Moberly states that there are fifteen villages on the western bank of the Kistna liable to inundation from high floods, that Government have never protected them hitherto, and he does not see why they should do so now. That the river is encroaching on the western bank, and that to avoid its early attack the western bank-channel has been dug from 150 to 300 yards inland; and he wishes a reference made to Government whether they intend to pay for two embankments so near each other. He estimates roughly that the proposed embankments will probably cost Rupees 13,000.

5. I have already stated that the old bank between the river and these villages was formerly constructed by Government, but abandoned since the construction of the new western channel about twenty years ago. The high floods of 1868 breached this embankment, and destroyed many houses and much property. The streets were unfordable for some days, but no lives were lost, boats having been supplied in time. These villages are now quite unprotected, and the people knowing this are most anxious to have the embankment repaired. They have promised to pay half the cost, and only beg that the work may not be delayed. Government concurred with the Board in considering that the State should bear

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the whole cost of protecting the river-bank. The Superintending Engineer protests against the State bearing any of the cost, but considers that the people should be left to fight their own battle alone against the river.

6. In my opinion steps should be taken at once to repair this channel-embankment; and if the state of the funds will not allow of the liberal intentions of Government being carried out, I fall back on my original proposal—let the villagers pay half, and the rest be contributed by Government, either from Local or Imperial Funds: half a loaf is better than no bread. As the inhabitants of this village are at present living in danger of their lives, I would respectfully suggest *bis dat qui cito dat*.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, to the Officiating Collector of the Kistna District, dated Nizampatam, 1st December 1869, Extra No. 15.

I have the honour to submit, for your consideration, the following remarks which occur to me after inspection of the bank regarding the condition of a part of which you addressed the Revenue Board in your No. 173, 7th June 1869, recorded in Government Order, No. 2,117, of 20th July 1869, Revenue Department.

2. The Kistna has, for some years past, been slowly encroaching on the bank in the twenty-five miles below Vellatur; to avoid its early attack the western bank-channel has been dug from 110 to 300 yards inland, with some reference also to a generally straight course.

3. Several villages have, in consequence, been left unprotected from extraordinary floods. Of these, your reference to the Board mentioned four. The Range Officer reports that you have referred petitions from two others since, and he has had applications from nine more similarly situated. In some places the embankment has dropped into the Kistna; whenever it exists it is much in want of repair, and is generally dangerously near the river.

4. I see no reason, however, why, if the Government pay for protecting one, they should not pay for all; but I know of no precedent for their doing so in either the Godavary or Kistna, or for paying compensation in case of the village being washed away, which it appears to me might, with equal justice, be claimed. Indeed, the villagers, so far as I have gathered, had no thought of seeking Government assistance till the idea was suggested by the Tahsildar.

5. The bank round Vellatur, for example, was constructed by the villagers; they claimed it as their own when I asked why they had not applied to the Taluk Overseer (whose head-quarters are in the village) for permission to breach it. To prevent the lower castes from passing between two embankments, one of which is actually in the embankment, they compel the traffic to go round over the bank to the river's edge. I saw three carts going there myself, and there were plenty of others.

6. I inquired of some of the villagers of Pennam as to the dimensions by which they estimate would make up the bank; but this was a point that had not occurred to them; one said one and two-thirds, and a guess was their conclusion.

7. The following may be the estimates as prepared by your department and by the Taluk Overseer for these villages:

	Revenue	Department Budget
Vellatur	803	812
Andalpet	787	1,195
Andalpet	224	532
Andalpet	694	2,972

Taking an average from these I believe it will cost Rupees 12,000 to make up protective banks for the fifteen villages exposed, and a larger sum of money to erect dykes, &c., to protect the lower castes from the river.

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8. I sent to Pulliverru for the villagers, regarding whom you addressed me in your Extra No. 375, 6th November, but they were the only ones who did not meet me on the bank; the others came without any message. The Overseer had very properly measured both lines; that along the river-side being very expensive, he proposed to refer to me the subject as to the covering villages only or including the lands also.

9. As you have decided on the latter it will require a reference to Government whether they intend to pay for two embankments so near one another.

SUBMITTED to Government, with reference to Government Order, dated 20th July 1869, No. 2,117.

2. In this letter the Officiating Collector of the Kistna District again brings forward the case of certain villages on the western bank of the River Kistna, which, being situated between the river and the new embankment, are in danger of destruction from the river-floods. When the Kistna anicut was commenced the state of the old river-embankments came under notice, and it was found advisable to abandon the old line of embankment and to re-construct it at some distance from the river-side.

3. In so doing a number of villages were necessarily left between the embankment and the river.

4. So long as the old bank stood these villages were protected by it; but as it had been abandoned as a Government work, no repairs to it were ever executed; and as the river encroached, it was in many places entirely washed away, and so, during the high freshes of 1868, several villages were inundated and much property destroyed.

5. This was duly reported by the Collector, and called forth the Government Order, dated above.

6. In that Order the Government recognized the necessity of protecting the villages at the cost of the State, and on reference thereto the sites were inspected by the Superintending Engineer of the 2nd Division. Colonel Moberly, while furnishing the Collector with a rough estimate of 18,000 rupees as the probable cost of protecting the four villages which suffered in 1868, pointed out that there were in all fifteen villages similarly exposed to danger, and all equally entitled to protection. He was, however, of opinion that the cost was not fairly chargeable to Government, as he considered that the State was only bound to maintain one embankment in an efficient condition, and that the villagers ought to provide for their own safety.

7. Mr. Boswell, on the other hand, thinks that the work should be performed by Government, but states that the villagers are willing to bear a share of the expense, and suggests that one-half of the cost may be levied from them, and the remainder defrayed from either Local or Imperial Funds; he presses for speedy orders on the subject, in order that the work may be completed before the next floods.

8. The Board having carefully weighed the objections of the Superintending Engineer to the expenditure of State Funds on the work in question, are unable to concur in his views. The villagers were originally protected by the old embankment and when it became necessary, for State reasons, to abandon that, and to

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19th March 1870.*

construct another farther from the river, the villagers, left exposed to the river-floods, were clearly entitled to assistance in protecting their houses from inundation.

9. It would, no doubt, be desirable in the case of the smaller villages that they should be removed, to secure sites within the new line of embankment, and the Collector should be called in to arrange this, whenever possible. The Chief difficulty will arise in finding suitable sites, as land there is very valuable. The Board think that, if necessary, Act VI. of 1857 may be fairly put in force for this purpose.

10. In conclusion the Board trust that the Government will authorize a grant-in-aid of one-half the cost of protecting each village, or when it may be found possible to remove the village to safe ground that a sum equal to half the cost of embanking it may be granted towards the expenses of providing a new site and of removing the houses. In the event of the Government being unable to allot Imperial Funds, the Board would suggest that a loan from Local Funds may be granted for this purpose.

No. 155.

ORDER THEREON, 19th March 1870, No. 374.

Irrigation, No. 4.

The Government resolve to adopt the recommendation expressed in paragraph 10 of the Board's Proceedings, as far as the interests of the villagers are concerned, giving a preference in all cases to aiding the villagers to remove to another locality whenever this course may be feasible. They cannot, however, in the present condition of Imperial finances, authorize the allotment of Imperial Funds for the purpose in question, and the cost should therefore be defrayed from Local Funds.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,

Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Memorandum
on 12/7/6

I agree. I
I agree with you & think
it is a work that we shall
be able to do for our
parents & our own
sake & for the
house in many instances
I would prefer the smaller
villages to remove as suggested
by the Board; I do not quite
understand how Pittsburg
is to keep up its other & so
proposed by the Board in
the O. R. but I would
oppose them in this
work also. W. A.

On June last the Acting Collector of the District brought to notice that the extension of the irrigation works in connection with the Kistna River, had led to the abandonment of the old river bankment on the western side, that this work had consequently become out of repair and that during a recent flood, four villages, which were dependent upon the old river bankment for protection, had become submerged & were suffering & loss estimated at Rs. 6069-8-6.

2
Dutchman's Bay
8 Nov 1870 W. 3057.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

1000

March 11, 1954

5700-25

Q. O. Pittsford, Jr., Secy.

THE
FACULTY
OF
THE
LIBRARY
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THE
UNIVERSITY
OF
TORONTO
ON
CANADA

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Flames of the Mexican Union of 1911.—Reorganization of the Board of Revenue with reference to the cost of their protection from marauding and the removal of their offices.

6169-8-6- The Ag. Collr
stated that an expenditure
of Rs 2180 upon the
old embankment was
therefore necessary for
the protection of life &
property, and suggested
that half the cost should
be defrayed from the
Local Fund of the District,
the villagers paying the
other moiety, which they
had expressed their
willingness to do.

2. The Board of
Revenue in submitting
the Collector's letter
expressed their opinion
that the charge was
not a proper one
upon the local
fund, and recom-
mended that it should
be met from the
Imperial

Imperial grant. The Govt
in their order under date
20 July 1889, No 2117 concurred
in this view, and transferred
the papers to the P.W. Dept.
in view to the provision of
funds.

3. With their present
Proceedings the Board now
submit another letter from
the Ag. Collector, enclosing
a communication from
the Sd. Engineer, who
reports that there are no
less than 15 villages depend-
ent upon the old embank-
ment for protection from
floods.

floods, and that an outlay
of about Rs. 13,000 will be
necessary if it be deemed
proper that this protection
should be afforded by the
State. The Supg. Engineer
thinks that the people
should provide for themselves,
but the Ag. Coll. is decidedly
of opinion that at any rate
some assistance should
be given to them. The
proposer that half the cost
of the work should be met
ed either from the State or
Imperial Income, the people
contributing the balance
themselves.

4. The P.W. state that though
they have given the Supg. Engineer
to the expenditure of State funds on
the work their careful
consideration

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consideration, they are
unable to concur in his
views. They consider
that under the circum-
stances, the people of
these villages are clearly
entitled to assistance in
protecting their houses
from inundation but they
suggest that the Acting
Collector should endeavor
to arrange for the removal
of the villages as opportu-
nity offers, to more conve-
nient sites. They recom-
mend that half the cost
of protecting each village
be

be sanctioned by Govern-
ment and that if no
Imperial funds are
available, a loan be made
from Local funds, these
grants to be expended in
respecting the removal of
the village when that ar-
rangement is adopted. They
consider that it would be
proper to put Act VI of 1857
into force, in order to obtain
new sites for the villages.

5. - It is submitted that
it is pretty clear from
these papers that the
present

795
present unsafe position of
these villages, against
which it is necessary to
provide either by the repair
of the embankment or the
removal of the villages, has
been occasioned not by the na-
tural action of the river,
but by the act of Govern-
ment in abandoning the old
embankment, in favor
of another for the
purpose of improving
the irrigation works.
The villages were,
doubtless

doubtless, originally,
built on the full un-
derstanding that this
embankment upon
which their safety
from floods depended
would be maintained,
and now that
it has been abandoned
they would appear
to be, in equity, en-
titled to compensation
and

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and in
all probability this would
be awarded to them should
they take the matter into
court.
If this view be ad-
mitted, it only remains to
determine what shape
the compensation is to take.
Probably the thorough re-
pair of the old embank-
ment from Imperial
funds, would be the
simplest and, in the end,
the most economical.
The transfer of the vil-
lages to new sites could
not fail to be very ex-
pensive, and the villagers
would, doubtless, be quite
willing to keep the embankment
in

in repair at their own
expense, if it was once
put into good order at
the expense of Govt. It
is submitted therefore
that the papers be trans-
ferred to the P. M. Dept.
with instructions to
provide for the work
from the irrigation paper
part of the Northern Dist.
for the coming year. It
will be observed that the
work should be under-
taken as soon as possible
so as to be completed
before the setting in of
the cold weather.

W. H. H. H.

Where the new em-
bankment of the Triotnah
was placed further back
from the margin of the
river than the old one
it was with a view not
to the improvement of
irrigation but to secure the
new work from the danger
of being destroyed by the
encroachment of the stream
which had in those places
eroded the banks almost
up to the line of the old
embankment and threaten-
ed to sweep it away.
As the embankment of the
river at all is of com-
paratively recent date
the villages referred to in
these papers probably

occupied their present
sites before they had
any security whatever
from floods. The old
bank at best gave but
very insufficient protection,
and the people, instead
of being encouraged to
look for its being repaired
or strengthened, should
be induced to move the
villages inside the new
embankment which
has been made of con-
siderable dimensions to afford
them the security which
at any cost they can
scarcely have without
it. The exception is

the village of Vellatur¹⁰⁵,
which being large and
popular cannot be
easily moved, but is
able to afford to keep up
its present site. It
is objectionable also on
sanitary grounds to
make up the old em-
bankment, because it
must necessarily shut
in the village between
it and the new bank
and prevent all means
of drainage.

W. B.

Repair of Wood
on Deck of
the Arthur Coker

4874 Revenue Department.
Proceedings of the Madras Government
under date the 19th March 1870

Read the following proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting letter from
the collector of the Kistna
District requesting that
early steps may be taken
for repairing the Western
bank of the Kistna river.

H. C. 20th January 1870 No. 258

The Government resolved to adopt the recommendation expressed in para 2 of the Board's Proceedings as far as the interests of the villagers are concerned. They cannot however in the present conditions of Imperial finances, authorise the allotment of

Imperial

giving a preference in all cases to aiding the villagers to remove to another locality whenever this course may be feasible.

Imperial funds for the
purpose in question, and
the cost should therefore
be defrayed from Local

Funds

OK.

14 - To the Board of
21 - Do. Sept
6 - Aut. Genl. V

W. H. Hall

Y.O.
Repair of the
Western bank
of the Rhine river

Revised 1890
1890

Proceedings of the
Western Government

Printed by W. W. Wood, 1890.