No. 44. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st October 1872, No. 2,039 :—

Read the following letter from G. D. LEMAN, Esq., Acting Collector of the Kistna District, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 4th September 1872, No. 2,291 :—

WITH reference to G. O., dated 19th March 1870, No. 374, Revenue Department, I have the honour to inform the Board that the Superintending Engineer has favoured me with estimates for throwing up new embankments around, and, where possible, for utilizing, by repairing, the old ones of the villages in the Repalli taluq exposed to floods, the inhabitants of which would not promise to remove when asked to do so by the late Collector. The cost of these estimates amounts to Rupees 16,618, as shown below :—

Villages.	RS.	
1. Chilumur ... ... }	1,600	
2. Annavaram lanka ... ... }		
3. Epuru lanka	1,328	
4. Pedda lanka of Colair village	627	
Annavooluvaripalem of do.	740	
Mala lanka	607	
Pesar lanka	806	
5. Pesar lanka hamlet of Peddapulivarru	1,416	
Chintamotu do. do.	1,700	
6. Mungala debba a hamlet of Voleru	632	
7. Pedda lanka	732	
		10,188
Improvement to existing embankments in the following villages.		
1. Anamalapaliem ... ... }	860	
2. Bommavanipolliem ... ... }		
3. Chilmore	517	
4. Vellore	594	
5. Peddapulivarru	273	
6. Pallepalliem ... ... }	1,642	
7. Penumoody ... ... }		
8. Bobber lanka	237	
9. Penti lanka	1,037	
10. Oommareddipoliem	470	
Minor sluices...	800	
		6,430
		16,618

2. In the Government Order above referred to it was decided that money could not then be spared from Imperial Funds for these works and that a moiety of the cost should be borne by the villagers, the remaining half being made up from Local Funds. Before, therefore, passing on these heavy estimates to the Local Fund Board, I deemed it necessary to enquire how far the villagers were prepared to redeem their promise of paying the half expense; and the result is that scarcely any of them are prepared to pay anything, now that the danger is not so pressing. When another heavy flood comes down perhaps the people may change their mind ; but at present they will neither pay to keep out the water nor move. I have just heard that the Mortota villagers have been obliged within the last two weeks to use rafts to cross their village streets ; they have had land in Kamarazugadda tank, where they would be quite safe, set apart for them for building for more than a year, but very few have taken the trouble to remove their houses.

3. In a precisely analogous case (I allude to the villages in the Devi division) the Local Fund Board, Masulipatam Circle, declined to give any assistance to the villagers on the ground that the expenditure was heavy and that the ryots could, if they would, avoid danger by removing their houses to more elevated localities; and I do not think that the Board will be more liberal towards the villagers in the Repalli taluq.

4. An abstract translation of the villagers' statements is enclosed for the Board's information, by which it will be seen that what they all want is to have the old embankment repaired, which could only be done at a very far larger expense and, when completed, would require a large yearly outlay to prevent its falling into the river as the old one has done already in some places.

5. The real fact is that all these people want the embankment primarily to save their lands and not their villages; and the method now proposed of ringbunding the village does not by any means fall in with their views of what is necessary. They are all of them used to the inconvenience of paddling about knee deep or on rafts at certain times of the year, while it is only in very heavy freshes that they are really in fear of their lives.

6. Government hold that they are bound to secure the safety of these people; but it seems to me that they may choose their own way to do it, and that way should, in my opinion, be by giving building sites to the villagers who desire to move to the other side of the western bank channel.

7. If the project of embanking the villages is to be carried out, I would beg to point out that the Local Fund Board with an income of about Rupees 1,26,000 a year are less able than the Government to bear so heavy an expenditure as that which will be needed.

Enclosure No. 1.—Translation of statements of certain villagers.

After the heavy floods in the Kistna in 1868 enquiries were set on foot with a view to ascertain how certain villages which had been exposed to much danger from inundation could be protected.

2. It was proposed in some instances to grant new building sites on higher ground beyond the river embankment and in others to embank the existing village sites.

3. Government gave the preference to the former plan, and ordered that a sum equal to half the cost of removal in addition to the new building site should be granted from Local Funds to villagers disposed to move.

4. Furthermore, estimates of the cost of embanking some villages whose inhabitants did not wish to remove were called for.

5. In November 1870, Mr. Boswell reported that he had succeeded in persuading the people in many of the villages to remove their houses to safer localities, but that five villages refused to move. Now the present Collector states that estimates having been prepared for the embankment of fifteen villages he has called on the people to ratify their parts of the agreement and pay up half the cost.

G. O., 7th December 1870, No. 1,966, R. D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th November 1872.

6. He says the result is that scarcely any of them are prepared to pay anything now that the danger is not so pressing, and that they will neither pay to keep out the water, nor move.

7. The estimate for embanking these villages is Rupees 16,618. Mr. Leman says that the Local Fund Board feel that the charge cannot be fairly laid on Local Funds.

8. He is of opinion that aid should be given to those who are willing to move their houses to safe sites but not otherwise.

9. In November 1870, Mr. Boswell stated that five villages only had declined to move. The estimate now presented is for embanking seventeen villages, but it is clear from the Collector's letter that there is but little disposition on the part of the villagers to move.

10. The Board think still that the charge is not one fairly debitable to Local Funds, and that the utmost the Local Fund Board ought to do is to assist the people in moving. If Government are not prepared to embank the village sites at the cost of the State, the Board think that that part of the plan must be abandoned and the villagers fairly warned that if they remain on their existing village sites they must do so at their own risk.

11. If they elect to remove, land for building will still be given them, and the Local Fund Board will be requested to provide half the cost of removal.

G. O., 7th December 1870, No. 1,966, R. D.

As Government wished the case to be again submitted for their consideration, the Collector's letter, with the Board's remarks, will be laid before them.

No. 45. Order thereon, 13th November 1872, No. 1,543.

Miscellaneous.

Under the altered conditions of the Local Funds no contribution from them can be contemplated for the work in question.

2. It will be considered in the Department Public Works whether funds can be allotted for the repairs of the embankment at an estimated cost of Rs. 16,618; and meanwhile the Collector should inform the villagers that fresh building-sites on higher ground will be assigned to them if they are willing to move. The question of a grant-in-aid towards the cost of moving their houses will be considered when the reply of the Department Public Works is received.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 16

(2) Date of repair 21 - 11 - 40

(3) Initials of the Referencer

Ker

P.W. 1543.

Under the scheme
conditions of the Loans Funds. No
contributions from them can be
contemplated for the work in
question. It will be considered in
the D.P.W. District programme
allotted for the repairs of the
Embankment at an estimated
cost of Rs. 16,000. and meanwhile
the Collr. should be from the villagers
that such building sites as
Lighter Stones can be assigned
to them if they are willing to work

The question of granting aid
from the cost of moving their
houses will be considered when
the reply of the D.P.W. is received.

13th Nov 42

14 To the Tahsildar of Ker dtd 14th Nov 42
21. P.W. Deputy " "
6. Accounts " "

No. 3480

Rev. 1872. Dept.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 21ST OCTOBER 1872, No. 2,039.

Dups 25 Oct. 72

Encl. 1st &c.

Received 28th

OCTOBER.

No. 2,039.

Villages in Repalli Taluq—Kistna District.—Letter from Collector regarding measures to be adopted for protection of certain—from inundation, submitted to Government with remarks.

No 1543 – 13 Nov 72

No 414–15

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