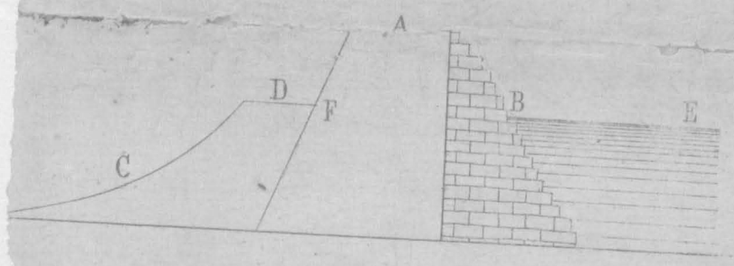
No. 63. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th February 1873, No. 271:—

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chendragherry, 10th February 1873, No. 88:—

IN continuation of the subject of my letter No. 64, dated 2nd December last, addressed to Government, I have the honour to draw the attention of the Board of Revenue to what appears to me the extremely unsatisfactory state of the Caveripauk Tank, and the urgent necessity that exists for vigorous steps to be taken for its thorough repair.

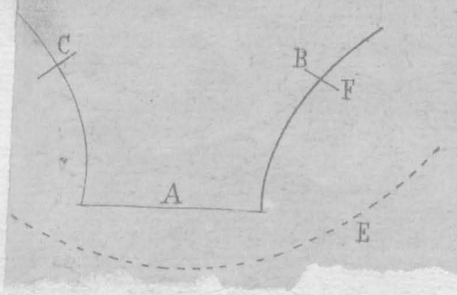
Vide Government Order in Board's Proceedings, dated 4th February 1873, Miscellaneous No. 666.

2. Ever since the accident that occurred to the bund after the heavy rain in November last, I have from time to time corresponded with Mr. Wilkinson, the Head Assistant Collector, (whose head-quarters are, as the Board may be aware, only a few miles from Caveripauk,) on the subject of this great tank; and as I finally learned from him that the result of repairs to the bund was apparently not quite as successful as might be wished, I requested him to visit the spot, and make a careful examination of the bund in view to my reporting thereon. This he has now done, and the state of things as reported by him is as follows:—



A. is the old bund which did not slip in November, but which is now also subsiding; B. the revetment; E. the level of the water; C. is the slip. Mr. Wilkinson informs me that as quickly as earth is raised from C. to D. it slips down again, and that there is quite a bog at F. It is asserted by the village officers that the earth placed in position one day subsides by the next morning, and at the foot of the bund are now to be seen stumps of palmyra trees which were placed near the top in order to stay the slipping.

3. At the great sluice, the wing walls of which have cracked and opened out as already reported by me, the undergrowth has been cleared away, and gravel placed in front of the sluice nearly up to the top of the wing walls. The accompanying sketch may explain this. A. is the sluice with its wing walls, B. and C. are the cracks, D and E. is the gravel that has been laid down. Mr. Wilkinson made an excavation at F. and found that water is still flowing through the old crack in the wing wall to the bund.



4. In his letter No. 239, dated the 6th ultimo, paragraph 3, Colonel Moberly informed me that "there was no absolute danger, but as the whole of the adjacent country was under water it was impossible to repair the damage substantially, and if we had kept the tank full, there might have been a serious accident." This action on the part of the Engineer officers in lowering the level of the water was, I am assured, judicious, and I thoroughly approved of it; but some two months have now elapsed and the tank which ought to have a supply of water sufficient to last for eighteen months' cultivation has only water enough for four months, and in consequence there will have to be heavy remissions of revenue this year. On the 4th, 5th, and 6th instants very heavy rain fell throughout the district, but the state of Caveripauk Tank bund put out of the question all idea of raising the level of the water in the tank.

5. I do not by any means desire to cast imputations on the skill or activity of the District Engineering officials. I am certain that Mr. Smithers, the Range Officer, is carrying out to the best of his ability the works of repair, but he has also a very large range to look after, extending from the Wallajah Taluq up to the Cuddapah frontier, and it is perfectly impossible for him to travel about, as he is bound to do, inspecting works in progress, and at the same time thoroughly supervise what is going on at the Caveripauk Tank; and in order therefore to ensure the speedy and thorough restoration of this most important irrigation work, so that when the next monsoon arrives it may be in a condition to receive a full [illegible] bility of suggesting to Government that some skilful officer be deputed to frame an estimate for the required repairs, and to remain on the spot until they are actually completed.

6. I forward herewith copies of the two last reports I have received on the state of the tank.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From F. WILKINSON, Esq., Head Assistant Collector, to the Acting Collector of North Arcot, dated Ranipett, 4th February 1873, No. 57.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on Saturday last I inspected the bund of the Caveripauk Tank and think it right to bring to your notice the state of the slips or partial breaches.

2. Of these there are now four, the largest of which is near the principal sluice called Surga Mathugu. The Department of Public Works have been working at them for the last month or more, but without effecting any actual repair; for as soon as the earth which has slipped is put up again, it at once sinks down. No fresh material has, so far as I learnt, been put into the bund.

3. The Monigar in charge of the bund and the Village Monigars informed me that each breach has been filled up to the height of the rest of the bund, but that by the next morning it has again subsided. Stumps of palmyra trees were shown to me which had been originally placed near the top of the bund to support the earth freshly placed there; when I saw them they were close to the foot of the bund.

4. The slip near the principal sluice is the most serious, and I cannot say that I found that in any better state on Saturday than when I first visited it on the 1st of December last. Portions of the bund which at first stood firm are now giving way and the breadth of the substantial bund is very slight.

5. On the 9th ultimo, when I visited the bund, I found Mr. Smithers, the Range Officer, there. He made light of the slip and assured me that there was no danger of the tank actually breaching. It is not for me to contradict a professional opinion given, as this was, with so much self-assurance, but it would in my opinion be more satisfactory were the tank inspected by an officer of the Royal Engineers who has some experience in tanks.

6. Heavy rain has again set in, and Mr. Smithers is away, I believe, at the Cuddapah frontier, so that in case of accident we have no one to look to but the Taluq Overseer.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Translation of Arzi.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The state of the Cauveripauk tank, as described in the letters of the Collector, the Head Assistant Collector, and the Tahsildar of Wallajah Taluq, is such as to cause very serious apprehension for the safety of the cultivation and revenue dependent on it. It is, as the Government are aware, one of the most important reservoirs in Southern India.

3. It appears that the injuries reported in November have been but very partially remedied, and that, although the tank now has only four months' supply of water (its full complement being eighteen months' supply) it [illegible] unsafe to take advantage of the rains in the beginning of February to increase the quantity in store.

4. The Board fully endorse the Collector's recommendation that the work should be immediately inspected by some superior officer of the Department of Public Works, and that steps should be taken for rendering this great reservoir capable of retaining a full supply for the coming season.

5. The Collector will report when the settlement of the taluq is made the amount of remission which may be found necessary owing to the inefficient state of the tank.

No. 64. ORDER THEREON, 7th March 1873, No. 272.

Irrigation, No. 1.

REFERRED to the Department Public Works for early orders on paragraph 4.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Public Works Department.
" the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Rev. 1873. Dept.
W. 662.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 25TH FEBRUARY 1873, No. 271.

Dept 6 March/73
Encl. 1
Cont No Ba Dep.

Received 7th March.

FEBRUARY.

No. 271.

Cauveripauk Tank—in North Arcot District.—Further report from Collector regarding damage done to — submitted to Government, and concurrence expressed with that officer that the work should be immediately inspected by a superior officer of Department of Public Works. Collector requested to report when settlement of the Taluq is made, what amount of remissions will be necessary owing to inefficient state of the tank.

W. 272
Refers to the D.P.W.
for early orders on Para 4.

8th March/73.

Lr 63-64

81 Ex Ch Ex Dept 8-10 Pg
14. Re 68-69 Ch Ex