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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

1396.

Press
Mis.

Dated

4-11-1874

196.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 28. Read the following letter from G. VANSAGNEW, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 27th October 1874:—

I REGRET to have to announce to Government the occurrence of a great disaster here. My telegram despatched to Colonel Walker at about midday on Sunday (25th) will have prepared the Government for bad news. I hoped then that the worst was over, as the river seemed to have ceased rising for the half hour before I left the anicut for the Telegraph Office, and the river-embankment at Runganaikulupett seemed likely to hold with the labor employed upon it. In the course of the afternoon the river rose sixteen inches more, *i.e.*, fifteen inches higher than in 1852. A great breach occurred into the old Rami Reddy channel near the dispensary. The embankment all along by Runganaikulupett was topped. Runganaikulupett was isolated from the town (the old fort). By night-fall the water through the breach by the dispensary was level with the roadway on the skew-bridge, and a few hours afterwards it rose over it, and all communication between Mulapett and the fort was cut off and remains so up to the time of my writing. How much higher the river rose I do not exactly know, because we have had no further communication with the anicut; but I think it has risen about three feet above the level of 1852, which was $24\frac{1}{2}$ feet, or $15\frac{1}{2}$ over the anicut. It is most probable that the anicut has breached; for by the evening of Sunday the displacement of stones in the apron had apparently worked up to the crest. On Sunday evening the river-water was within a foot of the top of the Nellore tank head-sluice at Babu Row's choultry, and one of the wing-walls was cracked. At 5 A.M. yesterday (Monday) the protecting bund breached close to the head-sluice, and the river poured direct into the tank, which filled brimfull till the water topped the bund about daylight this (Tuesday) morning, and a large breach occurred a little to the west of the stone bull opposite the Rajah's bungalow. Since then the tank has gone down about two feet, and is still falling. Whether the river is falling I have at present no means of knowing. I got a telegram late on Sunday evening that there had been heavy rains at Cuddapah, and that the Pennair was then rising there. The Post and Telegraph Offices are in the fort here, and one of the Telegraph posts is down in the flood between this and the fort, so I suppose there is no communication, and no post has come in from running down the main street of Runganaikulupett from the pagoda and falling into the Survapully canal, and it was this water that must have backed up to the anicut sluice. If this was kept out of the Jaffer Sahib's canal, there may not be much damage to report in that part of the delta, though the river has probably done mischief to some villages.

2. Just now (at midday) Mr. Mackenzie informs me that there is just about the same height of water running between Mulapett and the town (fort), and that the skew-bridge is still standing, the water not topping it now, but passing under and

I know of no deaths. As a rule, the people fled on Sunday from all the low-lying suburbs. Runganaikulupett must have been deserted before dusk on Sunday, and the people could safely reach Nawabpett by the road running between the river and the Jaffer Sahib's canal. Captain Chrystie and Mr. Mackenzie got home round by Nawabpett on Sunday evening. Just after crossing the Stonehousepett bridge over the Survapully enannel, the water was fast cutting the road away, and communication must have been cut off there. Mr. A. M. Simpson and the Revd. Mr. Downie live near there. About midday on Sunday when at the anicut, the water on the road to which was then up to about my horse's belly, I sent Captain Chrystie to Mr. Simpson's house, and he returned saying that he had found the inmates quite confident and determined to remain. They said that in the flood of 1852 the water only reached the basement of the house. On returning in the evening Captain Chrystie and Mr. Mackenzie found Mr. and Mrs. Downie resolved to stay in their house. Both these houses have upper storeys. I hope the inmates are safe; but they have been quite isolated from any other part of the town, and I am anxious about them. One or two bungalows in the direction of the church are also isolated, and about the inmates of some of these I am also anxious. The flood, of course, cut the trunk road by the Court-house. The jail had two feet of water inside it, and more outside yesterday morning, so the prisoners were got out, and I have located them in Colonel Mullins's house,—a liberty. I trust, he will pardon under the circumstances. There are no tents for them, and up to last night, which was fortunately fine, we have had heavy and incessant rain for several days. Crowds of people from all parts of the town and suburbs flocked out on the Sunday, and are mostly camped in and around all the empty bungalows at Durgamittu, and a few tents have been pitched for them. The inhabitants of Potapalium between the tank and the river escaped yesterday forenoon along the tank-bund. There is grain enough in Mulapett to supply the refugees for the present. To some old and destitute people I am supplying food at the cost of Government. The northern delta must be fearfully inundated, and I fear there must have been loss of life as well as of cattle and property. All the flood that is rushing through Nellore is going over the paddy-fields in the direction of Survapully, and will probably make the Kistnapatam backwater about Baljepalum near Mootookur. I hope it has not caused loss of life. The Survapully tank is safe, the main channel having breached in several places in time to prevent the flood-water flowing through it into the tank. Mr. R. Smith and I are in hopes that the Anicut Superintendent had closed the shutters of the Jaffer Sahib's canal head-sluice in time to prevent the flood-water entering it. When he last reported on Sunday evening there were ten feet nine inches in rear of the old main head-sluice at the anicut, four feet of water were then Tripaty for several days. The suburb, where most of the Europeans live, is only in communication with Mulapett and Futtahkanpett, and even that was cut off during last night, when the tank was at its highest by the rush of water from the calingulah. Luckily, the small bridge was not carried away. The water has now fallen, and the roadway is being repaired. Attempts to communicate with the fort by a raft have failed as yet. The river only began to rise dangerously at 5-30 A.M. on Sunday. On Saturday evening there were $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet going over the anicut. Had the rapid rise occurred in the evening instead of the morning, there would have been great loss of life. As it is, people had time to save themselves. Up to the present time

round both ends of it. Whether the parallel bridge between the jail and the fort bastion is in existence is unknown, it having been submerged early on Sunday afternoon. I wish to mention that the Rev. J. Macmillan at once on Sunday placed the whole of the large school buildings of the Free Kirk Mission at the disposal of the houseless people. Mr. R. Smith, the District Engineer, did all that was possible, assisted by Captain Chrystie and my Acting Head Assistant, Mr. Mackenzie, with a gang of prisoners under Mr. Lovejoy, the Jailor, to strengthen the embankment at Runganaikulupett on Sunday, but nothing that we could do on the spur of the moment was of the smallest avail against the sudden rush of so extraordinary a flood.

3. On this side I have Deputy-Collectors Narayana Row and Plunkett, the Tahsildar and Deputy-Tahsildar, the Treasurer, and one or two clerks; all the rest of my establishment are shut up in the town, or have escaped from Runganaikulupett to Nawabpett. Mr. Fox, the Range Officer, is in the town, and Mr. Theobald, the Inspecting Postmaster, and the Town Inspector of Police is there with a sufficient force.

4. I intend to establish a temporary Post-office here, and have authorised Mr. Deputy-Collector Plunkett to undertake the duty. I shall open the Nellore Mail bags when they arrive from Tripaty, and make a partial distribution of letters, both official and unofficial. I shall, also, use the runners to carry packets of letters from here to the nearest Post-office at Gudur, there to be regularly dealt with by the Deputy-Postmaster. I beg that Government will record their approval of this action, and intimate the same to the Postmaster-General, to whom I have not time to write.

5. What money is required for public purposes I have authorised the Treasury Deputy-Collector to borrow from private persons in Mulapett. There must be plenty of food in the town. There was a heavy wind from the north on Sunday, and the barometer kept falling. It fell as low as 29.74 early yesterday morning, but has risen steadily since, and there has been no rain since yesterday afternoon.

6. The habitations of a great many poor people have been utterly destroyed, and they will require aid to rebuild them. I trust the Government will authorise me to disburse funds for the purpose. I trust that the Municipality may also look to Government for a substantial grant to aid them in repairing damages.

No. 29.

ORDER THEREON, 4th November 1874, No. 1,396.

Miscellaneous.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor in Council has heard with much regret of the serious calamity which has befallen Nellore owing to the unprecedented floods in the Pennair. It is glad, however, to find that, so far as yet known, there has been little injury to life, though the damage to property must have been very extensive.

2. Pending further information, he can only express his approval of the active exertions made by all classes, official and nonofficial, in meeting the distress which has been caused.

3. Mr. VansAgnew's arrangements regarding the issue of food and the temporary Post-office are fully sanctioned. He will report, as soon as possible, upon the cases of such of the very poor as may, in his opinion, need immediate aid in the re-erection of their houses.

3
1896

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th November 1874.*

4. The wants of the Municipality will be considered in the Financial Department when more is known of the damage which has been done in the town and the probable outlay which may be necessary.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. O. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Nellore.
.. the Financial Department.
.. the Public Works Department.
.. the Board of Revenue.
.. the Postmaster-General.

Exd. E. R. Bantleman.

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have had no further communication with the Amicut but
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Amicut. It is most probable that the Amicut has
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of stones in the apron had apparently worked
up to the crest. On Sunday evening the river
water was within a foot of the top of the
Kellare tank head sluice at Babu Row's choultry
& one of the wing walls was cracked. At 5 a.m.
yesterday (Monday) the protecting bund breached
close to the head sluice & the river poured
direct into the tank, which filled basin full
till the water topped the bund about daylight.
This (Tuesday) morning & a large breach occurred
a little to the west of the stone wall opposite
the Rajah's bungalow. Since then the tank has
gone down about 2 feet & is still falling. Whether
the river is falling I have at present no means
of knowing. I got a telegram late on Sunday
evening that there had been heavy rains
at Lindupur & that the Pennar was then
rising there. The post & telegraph offices are
in the fort here & one of the telegraph posts
is down in the flood between this & the fort,
so I suppose there is no communication, &
no post has come in from Tripaty for several
days. The suburb where most of the Europeans

line is only in communication with Mulapett & 10/296
Futthkappett & even that was cut off during last
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off there. Mr. A. M. Simpson & the Rev. Mr.
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Sunday when at the anicut, the water on the
road to which was then up to about my horse's
belly, I sent Capt. Chrystie to Mr. Simpson's
house, & he returned saying that he had found
the inmates quite confident & determined to
remain. They said that in the flood of 1852
the water only reached the basement of the house.

On returning in the evening Capt. Croft & Mr. Mackenzie
found Mr. & Mrs. Downie resolved to stay in their house.
Both these houses have upper stories. I hope the
inmates are safe, but they have been quite isolated
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them. One or two bungalows in the direction of the
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some of these I am also anxious. The flood of
course cut the trunk road by the Court house.
The Jail had two feet of water inside it & more
outside yesterday morning so the prisoners were
set out & I have located them in Col. Mullin's house
a liberty I trust he will pardon under the cir-
-cumstances. There are no tents for them & up to
last night, which was fortunately fine, we have
had heavy & incessant rain for several days.
Crowds of people from all parts of the town
& suburbs flocked out on the Sunday & were mostly
camped in & around all the empty bungalows
at Surpamitta & a few tents have been pitched
for them. The inhabitants of Potapalium between
the tank & the river escaped yesterday forenoon
along the tank bund. There is grain enough
in Mulapett to supply the refugees for the
present. To some old & destitute people I
am supplying food at the cost of Government.
The northern Delta must be fearfully inundated
& I fear there must have been loss of life as
well as of cattle & property. All the floods that
is rushing thro' Kollon is going over the
paddy fields in the direction of Survaikul.

2/29/90
I will probably make the Kustnapotank backwater
about Buljipulum near Mootookur. Hope it
has not caused lots of life. The Sumapully tank
is safe, the main channel having breached in
several places in time to prevent the flood water
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are in hopes that the ancient sluice had closed
the shutters of the Jaffer Sahib's canal head sluice
in time to prevent the flood water entering
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there were 10 feet 9 inches in rear of the old
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were then running down the main street
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falling into the Sumapully canal & it was
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damage to report in that part of the Delta,
though the river has probably done mischief
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that there is just about the same height of water
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ends of it. Whether the parallel bridge between
the jail & the fort bastion is in existence is unknown
it having been submerged early on Sunday afternoon.
I wish to mention that the Rev. J. Macmillan at

9/29/6
6
once on Sunday placed the whole of the large school
buildings of the Free Trade mission at the disposal
of the household people. Mr. R. Smith, the S^r
Engineer did all that was possible assisted by
Capt. Phryatt & my acting head of Mr. Mackenzie
with a gang of prisoners under Mr. Lovejoy, the
Tailor, to strengthen the embankment at
Ranganachulapett on Sunday, but nothing
that we could do on the spur of the moment
was of the smallest avail against the sudden
rush of so extraordinary a flood.

On this side I have Supt. Collector's Karayana
Brown & Plunkett, the Subsilour & Supt. Subsilour
the Treasurer & one or two clerks. All the rest
of my establishment are shut up in the
town or have escaped from Ranganachulapett
to Namappett. Mr. Fox, the Range Officer is
in the town & Mr. Neobald the Inspecting Postmaster
& the Town Inspector of Police is there with
a sufficient force.

I intend to establish a temporary post office
here, & have authorized Mr. Supt. Collector
Plunkett to undertake the duty. I shall
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10/396
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I have authorized the Treasury Deputy Collector to
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trust that the Municipality may also
look to Govt for a substantial grant
to aid them in repairing damages.

Copy furnished for
the info of the Board
of Revenue.

I have the honor to be Sir
Your most obedient servant
G. V. S. S. S.
Collector

No 1396
 Revenue 1874
 From
 The collector of
 Nellore
 Dated 27 } Oct 1874
 Recd 30 }
 S.O. No 1396 - 11 November 1874

The usual account of the
 inundation has been
 of the active speaking
 person & thank the
 Government. The
 officers the
 report of the
 at the 20th 1874
 11/3/10 1874

Reporting that the
 Town was flooded by
 the overflow of the
 Pennair -

c 30/10/74 28.
 ~ 4/11/74

Revenue Dept. 9
 No 1396. 11/30
 Proceedings of the Madras Government
 Under date the 4 November 1874.
 Read the following letter
 from the Collector of Nellore

Reporting that the Town
 was flooded by the overflow
 of the Pennair } H.L. 27 October 1874.

His Excellency the Governor
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 much regret of the serious
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 He is glad, however, to find
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 there has been little injury
 to life though the damage
 to property must have been
 very extensive.

2. Pending further
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M.L.

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all classes, official and
non-official, in meeting the
distress which has been
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3. Mr. Vans Agnew's
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the issue of food, and the
temporary post-office, are
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~~upon the cases of~~
~~his discretion~~, such of the
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- 1 Collector of Rellie ^{Dep't in M.S. 4th}
- 5 Financial Department ^{Dep't in M.S. 4th}
- 21 Public Works Dept. ^{Dep't in M.S. 4th}
- 14 Board of Revenue ^{Dep't in M.S. 4th}
- 2 Post-Master General ^{Dep't in M.S. 4th}

Agnew is not discrete.
Let letter call for a report early

20
Hoods in Nello

