

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 Ranganaiikulupett 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 Ranganaiikulupett was topped. Runganaiikulupett 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-sluiice 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-sluiice, 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 Runganaiikulupett from the pagoda and falling into the Survapully canal, and it was this water that must have backed up to the anicut sluiice. 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

4/1300

I regret to have to announce to Gov: the occurrence of a great disaster here. My telegrapher despatched to Cal Walker at about midday on Sunday (25th) will have prepared the Gov: 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 agent for the Telegraph Office; & the river embankment at Rungwinkulupett seemed likely to hold with the labour employed upon it. In the course of the afternoon the river rose 16 inches more - i. e. 15 inches higher than in 1852 - a great breach occurred into the old Namik Reddy channel near the Dispensary. The embankment all along by Rungwinkulupett was topped. Rungwinkulupett was isolated from the town (the old fort). By nightfall the water thro' the breach by the Dispensary was level with the roadway on the Plew bridge - & a few hours afterwards it rose over it & all communication between Mulupett & the Fort was cut off & remains so up to the time of my writing. How much

REVISED

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Need

Index

G. O., 4th November 1874, No. 1,336.

Ms. 25-20

[illegible]

higher the river rose I do not exactly know because we
have had no further communication with the Genl. but
I think it has risen about 3 feet ~~at~~ above the level
of 1852 which was $24\frac{1}{2}$ feet or $15\frac{1}{2}$ over the
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of stones in the apron had apparently worked
up to the crest. On Sunday evening the river
was within a foot of the top of the
Kellare tank head sluice at Babu Puro'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 ~~bed~~ 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 ~~there~~ had been heavy rains
at ~~Chindupur~~ & 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

live is only in communication with Mulapett & 10/29/52
Futthampett & even that was cut off during last
night when the tank was at its highest by the rush
of water from the culingula - Luckily the main
bridge was not carried away. The water has now
fallen & the roadway is being repaired. Attempts
to communicate with the Fort by a raft have
failed as yet. The river only began to rise dangerous
at 5.30 a.m. on Sunday. On Saturday evening there
were 9 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
I know of no deaths. As a rule the people fled on
Sunday from all the low lying suburbs. Punganaikuppam
must have been deserted before dark on Sunday, & the
people could safely reach Nawabpett by the road
running between the river & the Jaffer Sahib canal.
Capt. Chrystie & Mr. Mackenzie got home round by
Nawabpett on Sunday evening. Just after crossing
the Stonehousepett bridge over the Survapuley
channel the water was fast cutting the road
away & communication must have been cut
off there. Mr. A. M. Simpson & the Rev. 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 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. Bowrie resolved to stay in their house.
Both these houses have upper stories. I hope the
inmates are safe, but they have been quite isolated
from any other part of the town & I am anxious about
them. One or two bungalows in the direction of the
church are also isolated & 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 & 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 & are 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 bank. There is grain enough
in Mulabett 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 Surva-hull.

4/30
I will probably make the Westnapatan backwater
about 1500 feet 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
flowing thro' it into the tank. Mr. R. Smith & I
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
it. When he last reported on Sunday evening
there were 10 feet 9 inches in rear of the old
main head sluice at the ancient. 4 feet of water
were then running down the main street
of Pungamachilubett from the pagoda &
falling into the Sumapully canal & it was
this water that must have backed up to the
ancient sluice. If this was kept out of the
Jaffer Sahib 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.

Just now (at midday) Mr. Mackenzie informs me
that there is just about the same height of water
running between Madapett & the town (fort) & that
the skew bridge is still standing, the water not
topping it now but passing under & round both
ends of it. Whether the parallel bridge between
the Gail & 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
once on Sunday placed the whole of the large school
buildings of the Free Trade mission at the disposal
of the household people. Mr. H. Smith, the S^r
Engineer did all that was possible assisted by
Capt. Phryder & my acting head Mr. Mackenzie
with a gang of prisoners under Mr. Forsyth, the
Tailor, to strengthen the embankment at
Ranganachulupett 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 Karamana
Poon & Plunkett, the Subildar & Supt. Subildar
the Treasurer & one or two clerks. All the rest
of my establishment are shut up in the
town or have escaped from Ranganachulupett
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
open the heliore mail bags when they arrive
from Inspat & make a partial distribution
of letters both official & unofficial. I shall
also use the runners to carry packets
of letters from here to the nearest Post Office.

10/24/74
at Guvior, there to be regularly dealt with by the
Deputy Postmaster. I beg that Govt will record
their approval of this action & intimate the
same to the Post Master General, to whom
I have not time to write.

What money is required for public purposes
I have authorized 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 & the Barometer kept falling.

It fell as low as 29.74 early yesterday
morning, but has risen steadily since &
there has been no rain since yesterday
afternoon.

The habitations of a great many poor
people have been utterly destroyed, & they
will require aid to rebuild them. I trust
the Government will authorize me to
disburse funds for the purpose. I
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. Mansel-Pleydell
Collector

1874
Circular 1874

From
The collector of
Mellal

Dated 27 } Oct 1874
Recd 30 }

S.O. 1396 - 24 November 1874

The usual amount of
information has not been
of the state of the
person & should be
in accordance with
the order of the
Government. The
order of the
Government is
to be followed.

11/3/10

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

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

Ch

Revenue Dept. 9.
No 1396. 12/13

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 4 November 1874.

Read the following letter
from the Collector of Mellal

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

His Excellency the Governor
in Council has heard with
much regret of the serious
calamity which has befallen
Nellore owing to the unpre-
cedented floods in the Pennair.
He 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.

ML
tel

2. Pending further
information

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

3. Mr. Vans Agnew's arrangements regarding the issue of food, and the temporary post-office, are fully sanctioned. He will report, as soon as possible, ~~authorized also to act~~ upon the cases of ~~his discretion~~ ^{in his opinion}, such of the very poor as may need immediate aid in the re-erection of their houses.

Agnew is not discrete.
Not better call for a report/early

4. The wants of the Municipality will be considered in the Financial Department when more is known of the damage which

which has been done in the town and the probable outlay which may be necessary.

- 1 Collector of Revenue ^{Despatch No. 5:4} *CJW*
5 Financial Department
21 Public Works Dept.
14 Board of Revenue ^{Despatch No. 5:4}
2 Post-Master General

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-8

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Hards in Nela



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