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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1397.	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	4-11-1874	196 . .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 30. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th October 1874, No. 3,092:—

Read the following letter from G. D. LEMAN, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, to J. CROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 14th October 1874, No. 1684:—

I have the honor to continue my report of the 30th September 1874, No. 1633.

2. The great rise in the river seems to be attributable to the fact that at the same time that a very heavy fresh was passing down the Kistna there was a great rainfall in the Hyderabad country which brought down all the smaller rivers and streams that are tributaries of the Kistna.

3. The height of the water at the anicut on the various dates was as per margin, and it will be observed that, whereas in an ordinary fresh the water falls rapidly as soon as the highest point is reached, in this case it remained at almost the highest level for forty-eight hours, thereby greatly adding to the distress and fear of the people.

September 1874.

Date.	Hour.	Height.
24th	6 P.M.	34′ 9″
25th	,,	38′
26th	,,	39′ 5″
27th	,,	39′ 2″
28th	,,	37′ 8″
29th	,,	33′ 2″
30th	,,	

4. Ravirala, near Jaggiapet, is the most distant point from which I have news, Mr. Vanstavern, who is there, reports that the village was deserted by the inhabitants, but that the water did not rise sufficiently to flood the houses. Their peril was from the Palcru, however, not the Kistna.

5. I have received no report of any damage to villages on the left bank of the river from there to Ibrampatnam. Ibrampatnam is destroyed save twenty-five houses; its population is about 1,500. The people took refuge in a large house of one Mallela Kondayya, and he fed some 400 people for three days.

6. I hear he threatened to discontinue this, but I hope that his threat was not carried out till the necessity had ceased. From Ibrampatnam to Bezwada there is a river embankment and this was most fortunately saved by the people. The villages inside (Tummalapoliem, Gollapudi, and Bavanipuram) were much damaged, and the people for the most part were saved in boats sent from Bezwada. The chief damage here is to the crops inside the embankment,—not a very large extent,—to the houses, and to the grain pits, the stores in which are irretrievably ruined.

7. On the right bank the river overflowed into the Sattenapalli Taluq, but the damage was nothing to speak of. More serious damage was done to fourteen villages in the Guntoor Taluq, but as there is no embankment that side the water spread much more. One village (Borampoliem) is reported to have had every house destroyed. The flood-water reached the Lam Hill, near Guntoor, a distance of eight miles from the river.

8. To what extent the crops here have been damaged it is not possible to say at present: they may be productive yet. On this side Mr. Newman, and on the

left bank the Sheristadar and Tahsildar of the Bezwada Taluq, fed the [illegible] who needed food. I have no account of the number or the money spent [illegible] present. No lives were lost, or cattle, though the people must have found [illegible] difficult to keep the latter alive.

9. They were very brave in their distress [illegible] and children to safe places the men themselves wai[illegible] sible and (where the water was too deep) in high places [illegible] ave their cattle.

10. Below the anicut the left bank of the river [illegible] Board are aware, Zemindari. At Wallur the flood-water breaching the [illegible] ank and the river embankment tore across the main canal making a very serious breach there; it flooded the country beyond the canal to a distance of twelve miles from the river, and then, returning again, forced its way across the canal to return towards the river. The breaches in the canal were numerous for the whole country was under water, but most have been filled in or ring-bunded. Only two are likely to give serious trouble now; they are thirty and twenty-six feet deep below the ordinary level of the canal water. All possible efforts have been made by the Engineering Officers of the district, and the canal is now open again for traffic.

11. While the floods were coming down, and just after the Gudivada Tahsildar was in Pamarru, hearing that the villagers of Inampudi, Velpur, Kanakavalli, Gaddipadu, Garikiparru, Mullapudi, and Kapilesvarapuram were in distress for food, he proceeded there and distributed rice. These villages belong to the Zemindars of Devaracotta, Vallur, and Nuzvid. As usual no steps whatever were taken by them to help their people. I have proposed to them at once to give wood and leaves for thatching their huts gratis to their people.

12. The crops here are reported to be lost, and the smell from the river silt, which has been brought over the country, to be dreadfully offensive, but the people and cattle are safe. The rice still looks very well, but the ryots say that it will not car after such a submersion.

13. I have but a very meagre report of the state of things in the Devaracotta Pergana below this. The whole of it has been under water between the canal and the river, and, as the Bunder Tahsildar was in Divi, where I anticipated matters would be worst, I had no one to send save a gumastah, who, after visiting eight or ten villages, reports, as the others, that no lives or cattle have been lost. It was from Srikakulam that the report of the twelve dead bodies came, and the man who gave it now says he saw two bodies out of ten which the villagers reported they had seen.

14. In the Divi Division, which I was in great anxiety about, the mischief is not worse than that which has been done above, and it is not as bad as that about Wallurpoliem.

15. Out of the rice I sent them it was only found necessary to expend thirty bags, and the Tahsildar, who has just returned, says the people have got to work again and have repaired their tanks and channels as far as possible. The District Engineer has sent down to have the river embankment set in order at once (lest later freshes come), and there will be ample work for the people there if they want it. Wherever the river embankment did not breach the villages remained uninjured, which was wonderfully the case with the village of Visvanadhapilly. It lies so low

that the tops of the huts are barely visible over the embankment. The water was within three inches of the top of the bank; had it gone over it I hardly see how the people would have escaped in time.

16. Ravivaripalem was destroyed save four houses, the only tiled ones. Puligadda and its hamlet [illegible]ed; many houses were destroyed. This is one of the villages that I have been trying to persuade the people to remove to a safer place. It is perched on the edge of the bank, and year by year loses a house or two.

17. Avanigadda was kept dry by the exertions of the Police and villagers, who kept up the river bund. Four men of Iyalur, in Nuzvid, had a narrow escape here; the rise on the river on the 28th caught them cutting cholum on a lunka. They made a raft of it (the cholum) and came down on the flood to this place, twenty miles, when their cries were noticed and the Police sent off a boat and saved them.

18. Vekanur and Yedlalanka escaped with very little damage; but three tanks about here breached: they have been since repaired. Chiruvolelanka, Machavaram, Modumudi, Ramachandrapoor, and Meraknapilli, these all lost all but the most substantial houses, and Wullipalem lost a few houses.

19. The only thing that saved the people in Divi was the fact that the river escaped over its banks into so large a tract of country. Had the full fresh got down to the island not a man would have been left upon it. It was also most providential—it is by no means usually the case—that the flood came unaccompanied by wind. Had there been a wind the destruction of the clay huts would have been far greater, and I doubt if it would have been possible to have kept up the embankment anywhere. In very many cases the water was kept out of the houses by the simple expedient of making a clay wall across the door-way.

20. I have just got a short report from the Repalli Tahsildar, who says three-fourths of his taluq have been under water. He reports only one death, that of a man who, trying to swim, was caught in an eddy. In his cusbah station the water stood at one time eight feet deep in the low streets and some damage to houses was done, but the people sheltered in the Fort. The Cutcherry remained safe. The Tahsildar assisted the villagers of Kamarazugadda, Mortota, Visvesvaram, &c., that lie towards the mouth of the river, to get to high places—for their villages were, for the most part, under water—and then proceeded up the river, where he rendered similar assistance, distributing food where necessary. The villages* that have suffered by the loss of houses near here are almost entirely those inside the embankment. The villagers have been warned over and over again to move into safety. I hope this may be a lesson to them. From the Tenali Division of this taluq I have a short report to the same effect as the others, that the loss consists chiefly of the standing crops and the clay huts of the poorer ryots.

* Voleru, Pedapulivarru, Mulapoliem, Pesaralanka, Chilumur, Ammavaramlanka, Eparlanka, Bommavanipoliem, and Hanumanlapoliem.

21. To summarize: More than 160 Government and Zemindari villages have suffered more or less, chiefly in the hamlets or pariah and chuckler quarters. All grain stored in pits has been lost, damaged by water; but I do not estimate this at a very large quantity. The well-to-do ryots keep what they have in their

houses, and the poorer people, as the harvest was so nearly approachi[illegible], had most likely all but used up what supply they had. Those that were in im[illegible]diate necessity have been fed, and there will be ample cool[illegible] work for them d[illegible] on the canal for some time to come.

22. I do not propose any pecuniary assistance for the villa[illegible]. I do not think it advisable to make such a precedent, nor de[illegible] hours. I do not have wood and thatch given to them, and this [illegible] think it necessary in the people of the Board's permission (received to-day). Should I [illegible] anticipation any objection I shall report further to the Board. [illegible] all leaf-renter make

23. The water has subsided and is off the country save in the deeper courses that have been cut by the flood-water and in the low-lying fields and swamps; but I fear a bad fever year, for the people must have suffered much from expo- sure, and many lived for two or three days on uncooked food and damaged grain. I have just heard from Nizampatam that the salt is safe, but the roads, pans, *etc.*, much damaged. I shall report at length when I hear from the Deputy Collector who is there. None of the other kotars have been in jeopardy.

24. All the reports agree in saying that the loss of crop cannot be estimated yet, that there is a chance where the paddy has only been flooded that it will still produce, but the crops were so promising that it is a sad blow to the ryots.

25. The cost of putting the canals and channels in repair will hardly be less than three-fourths of a lakh of Rupees. The palmyrah sluices newly placed in the Divi River-channels have all been washed in or so damaged that they are in danger of falling. The new road from Guntoor to Iyalur has been badly breached and about five miles of it washed away. The road from Wallur to the canal is gone, besides which the roads from Bunder to Bezwada and Bunder to Lankapilli (towards Sallapilli) have been much injured. The necessary repairs to them will fall somewhat heavily on the Local Fund Board.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. It speaks for itself and there is but little for the Board to say.

3. It is gratifying to find that the loss of life hitherto reported has been trifling compared to what was expected.

4. The loss of property in the way of stored grain and standing crops must have been very great. Probably the loss of the paddy crops will be small, but the dry crops in the tract inundated must all have perished.

5. The alacrity with which the Revenue and Police officials seem to have met the wants of the people in the way of food is praiseworthy and the promptitude of the Engineers in repairing the breaches in the canal satisfactory. It is a very noteworthy fact that in many places villages were saved from destruction by the river embankment, and that the chief losses occurred in those villages situated between the embankment and the river. The offers made to these people on the occasion of a former flood should be now renewed, and they should be pressed to remove their abodes to safe places whilst the remembrance of the perils they have escaped is still fresh in their memory. There will be abundance of work for all in want of employment, and if wood and thatch is freely given it will be well not to grant pecuniary aid. In the prospect of a possible outbreak of

P/1397

sickness the Government will no doubt be ready to send a liberal supply of medicines and to hold in readiness a few extra medical subordinates to proceed at once should their services be needed. It is probable, too, that the District Engineer may require assistance in the shape of additional officers.

6. The Collector should ascertain if there are many instances in which private individuals spent sums of any magnitude in feeding the people as at Ibrampatam. Such men should be reimbursed or should have some mark of approval from Government.

No. 31. ORDER THEREON, 4th November 1874, No. 1,397.

Miscellaneous.

THE Governor in Council agrees with the Board in eulogising the conduct of the officials of various departments during these disastrous floods in the Kistna District, and approves of the suggestion that the villagers within the river-embankments should be urged to remove their houses.

2. The Government will be ready (as suggested) to provide medical relief in case of an exceptional outbreak of sickness, and the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, will be instructed to make the necessary preparations in anticipation.

3. It is a matter for congratulation that so little loss of life has occurred.

4. It will be considered in the Public Works Department whether extra assistance is required by the District Engineer, and what measures of prevention should be adopted to protect the country from similar inundations. The Collector, it is observed, roughly estimates the damage to canals and channels at three-fourths of a lakh of Rupees.

5. The Government will be prepared to consider favorably any further proposals for relief measures should the Collector bring them forward.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Kistna District Collector's Office
Masulipatam, 14 October 1874

№ 1684

From

G. D. Leman Esqre,

Collector, Kistna District.

To,

J. Grove Esqre,

Secretary to the Board of Revenue

Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to continue my report of the 30th September 1874 №1633.

2. The great rise in the river seems to be attributable to the fact that, at the same time that a very heavy fresh was passing down the Kistna, there was a great rainfall in the Hyderabad Country which brought down all the smaller rivers and streams that are tributaries of the Kistna.

3. The height of the water at the anicut on the various dates was as per margin: and

Sept[r] 1874

Date	Hour	Height in feet & inches
24	6 P.M	34' 9"
25	Do	38'
26	Do	39' 5"
27	Do	39' 2"
28	Do	39' 2"
29	Do	37' 8"
30	Do	33' 2"

Govt. of Madras
REVENUE.
THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c.
NOVEMBER

and it will be observed that, whereas in an ordinary fresh the water falls rapidly as soon as the highest point is reached, in this case it remained at almost the highest level for 48 hours, thereby greatly adding to the distress and fear of the people.

4. Ravirala near Jaggiapet is the most distant point from which I have news. Mr Vanslavern who is there, reports that the village was deserted by the inhabitants but that the water did not rise sufficiently to flood the houses. Their peril was from the Palera however, not the Kistna.

5. I have received no report of any damage to villages on the left bank of the river; from there to Ibrampatnam. Ibrampatnam is destroyed save 25 houses: its

pits population is about 1500: the people took refuge in a large house of one Mallela Rondayya; and he fed some 400 people for 3 days.

6. I hear he threatened to discontinue this; but I hope that this threat was not carried out till the necessity had ceased. From Ibrampatnam to Bezwada there is a river embankment; and this was most fortunately saved by the people. The villages inside, Jammala-palem, Gollapudi, and Bavanipuram, were much damaged; and the people for the most part were saved in boats sent from Bezwada. The chief damage here is to the crops inside the embankment - not a very large extent - to the houses, and to the grain-pits, the stores in which are irretrievably ruined.

7. On the right bank the river overflowed into

into Sattenapalli Taluq; but the damage was nothing to speak of. More serious damage was done to 14 villages in the Guntoor Taluq: but, as there is no embankment that side, the water spread much more. One village, Boranpoliem, is reported to have had every house destroyed. The flood water reached the Lam hill near Guntoor, a distance of 8 miles from the river.

8. To what extent the crops here have been damaged it is not possible to say at present. They may be productive yet. On this side Mr Newman, and on the left bank the Sheristadar and Tahsildar of Bezwada Taluq fed those who needed food. I have no account of the number or the money spent at present. No lives were lost or cattle; though the people must have found it difficult to keep the latter alive.

They

9. They were very brave in their distress; sending away the women and children to safe places, the men themselves waited in the villages where possible and (where the water was too deep) in high places to tend and save their cattle.

10. Below the anicut, the left bank of the river is, as the Board are aware, Zemindari. At Wallur the flood water breaching the river banks and the river embankment tore across the Main Canal making a very serious breach there; it flooded the country beyond the canal to a distance of 12 miles from the river, and then returning again forced its way across the canal to return towards the river. The breaches in the canal were numerous: for the whole country was under water,

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but most have been filled in or ring-bunded. Only two are likely to give a serious trouble now, they are 30 and 26 feet deep below the ordinary level of the canal water. All possible efforts have been made by the Engineering Officers of the district; and the canal is now open again for traffic.

11. While the floods were coming down and just after the Gudivada Tahsildar was in Pamarru, hearing that the villagers of Inampudi, Velpur, Kunakavalli, Gaddipadu, Garikaparru, Mallapudi and Kapileswarapuram were in distress for food, he proceeded there and distributed rice. These villages belong to the Zemindars of Devaracotta, Vallur and Nuzvid. As usual no steps whatever were taken by them to help their people. I have proposed to them at once to give wood and leaves for thatching their huts gratis to their people.

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13. I have but a very meagre report of the state of things in the Devaracotta pergana below this. The whole of it has been under water between the canal and the river; and as the Bunder Tahsildar was in Divi where I anticipated matters would be worst, I have no one to send save a Gumastah who after visiting 8 or 10 villages reports, as the others, that no lives or cattle have been lost. It was from Srikakulam that the report of the 12 dead bodies came and the man who gave it now says he saw

two

two bodies out of 10 which the villagers reported they had seen.

14. In the Divi Division, which I was in great anxiety about, the mischief is not worser than that which has been done up above; and it is not as bad as that about Vallurpolliem.

15. Out of the rice I sent them it was only found necessary to expend 30 bags; and the Tahsildar, who has just returned, says the people have got to work again and have repaired their tanks and channels as far as possible. The District Engineer has sent down to have the river embankment set in order at once (lest later freshes come); and there will be ample work for the people there, if they want it. Wherever the river embankments did not breach the villages remained uninjured: which was wonderfully the case with the Village of Visvanadhapilly. It lies so low that the tops of the huts are barely visible over the embankments: the water was within 3 inches of the top of the bank; had it gone over it, I hardly see how the people would have escaped in time.

Ravivaripalem

8/97

16. Ravivaripalem was destroyed save four houses, the only tiled ones. Puligadda and its hamlets suffered many houses were destroyed. This is one of the villages that I have been trying to persuade the people to remove to a safer place. It is perched on the edge of the bank, and year by year loses a house or two.

17. Avanigadda was kept dry by the exertions of the Police and villagers who kept up the river-bund. Four men of Tyalur in Nizvid had a narrow escape here: the rise in the river on the 28th caught them cutting Cholam on a Lunka. They made a raft of it (the Cholam)

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to this place 20 miles, when their crew
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18 Villanur and Vidalankudi-
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only one death, that of a man who, trying to swim, was caught in an eddy. In his cadjan station the water stood at one time 8 feet deep in the low streets, and some damage to houses was done, but the people sheltered in the forts. The cutcherry remained safe. The Tahsildar assisted the villagers of Ramanaiyaddoa, Mottota, Visvaranatte, that lie towards the mouth of the river to get to high places — for their villages were for the most part under water — and then proceeded up the river where he rendered similar assistance distributing food where necessary. The villages that have suffered by the loss of houses

* Valeru
Pedapalivenu
Mulapolim
Kasalanka
Chilumuri
Avvamavaram
-lanka
Epurlanka
Bommanami
-polim
Hammanda
-polim

near

10/397

near here are almost entirely those inside the embankment. The villagers have been warned over & over again to move into safety. I hope this may be a lesson to them. From the Tenali Division of this Taluq I have a short report to the same effect as the others, that the loss consists chiefly of the standing crops and the clay huts of the poorer ryots.

21 To summarize. More than 160 Government and Zemindari villages have suffered more or less, chiefly in the hamlets or Parish & Chuckler Quarters. All grain stored in pits has been lost, damaged by water; but I do not

not estimate this at a very large quantity. The well-to-do ryots keep what they have in their houses; and the poorer people as the harvest was so nearly approaching, had most likely all but used up what supply they had. Those that were in immediate necessity have been fed, and there will be ample coolly work for them on the Canal for some time to come.

22 " I do not propose any pecuniary assistance for the repair of houses. I do not think it advisable to make such a precedent, nor do I think it necessary if the people have wood and thatch given to them; and this I have authorized

authorized in anticipation of the Board's permission. Should the Palmira leaf under mats annoy objection, I shall report further to the Board.

*Received to day.

23 " The water has subsided, and is off the country save in the deeper courses that have been cut by the flood water, and in the low-lying fields and swamps; but I fear a bad fever year; for the people must have suffered much from exposure and many lived for two or three days on uncooked food and damaged grain. I have just heard from Mzampatam that the salt is safe; but the roads are much damaged. I shall report at length when I hear from

from the Deputy Collector who is there. Some of the other Kotars have been in jeopardy

24 All the reports agree in saying that the loss of crop cannot be estimated yet, that there is a chance where the paddy has only been flooded that it will still produce, but the crops were so promising that it is a sad blow to the ryots

25 The cost of putting the canals and channels in repair will handle be less than 3/4 of a lac of Rupees. The Palmira sluices newly placed in the Divi river channels have all been washed in or so damaged that they are in danger of falling. The new road from Guntoor to Iyaloor has been badly breached, and about five miles of it washed away. The road from Waller to the Canal is gone; besides which the roads from Bunder to Bezwada and Bunder to Lankapelli (towards Gallapelli) have been much injured. The necessary repairs to them will fall somewhat heavily on the Local Fund Board

I have &c

(Sd) G. D Leman

Collector

(True copy)

J Grose

Secretary

Mayavaram

Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 24th October 1874.

Read letter from the Collector of the Kistna District dated 14th October 1874 No. 1684, submitting further report on the floods in the Kistna River.

Submitted for the information of Government.

It speaks for itself and there is but little for the Board to say.

It is gratifying to find that the loss of life hitherto reported has been trifling compared to what was expected.

The loss of property in the way of Stored grain and Standing Crops must have been very great. Probably the loss of the Paddy Crops will

Enclosure in Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 24th October 1874
No. 1684

will be small, but the dry crops in the tract inundated must all have perished.

The alacrity with which the Revenue and Police officials seem to have met the wants of the people in the way of food is praiseworthy, and the promptitude of the Engineers in repairing the breaches in the canal, satisfactory. It is a very noteworthy fact that in many places villages were saved from destruction by the River-Embankment, and that the chief losses occurred in those villages situated between the Embankment and the River. The offers made to these people on the occasion of a former flood, should be now renewed, and they should be pressed to remove their abodes to safe places, whilst the remembrance of the perils they have escaped is still fresh in their memory.

There will be abundance of work for all in want of employment, and, if wood and thatch is freely given it will be well not to grant pecuniary aid.

In the prospect of a possible outbreak of sickness, the Government will no doubt be ready to send a liberal supply of medicines and to hold in readiness a few Extra Medical subordinates to proceed at once should their services be needed. It is probable too that the District Engineer may require assistance in the shape of additional Officers.

The Collector should ascertain if there are many instances in which private individuals spent

spent sums of any magnitude in
feeding the people as at Shirampatam.
Such men should be reimbursed, or
should have some mark of approval
from Government.

(True Extract)

J Grote
Secretary.

To
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
with Copy of Collector's
letter

C C Whyte
Copy J Varnett

Revenue Department.

No. 1397

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 4th November 1874

Read the following Pro.

Bd. of Rev.

Subg. Collector's detailed report on floods in Kistna River and asking Govt to make a liberal supply of medicines & Medical subordinates in case of outbreak of sickness

H.E. 24th October 1874

The Governor in Council agrees with the Board in eulogizing the conduct of the officials of various Departments during these disastrous floods in the Kistna District and approves of the suggestion that the villagers within the River embankments should be urged to remove their houses.

2. The Government will be

No. 17 Oct/74 to 24-10-74

No. 3762

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Dated 21st
Received 24
Read 26

Subg. Collector's detailed report on floods in Kistna River and asking Govt to make a liberal supply of medicines & Medical subordinates in case of outbreak of sickness.

Their Proceedings thereon should be approved. The conduct of the Police & Revenue officers should be eulogized.

Also, enquiries should be made to the proceedings in the P.W.D. with a view to future prevention.

It is feared that it will not be ready (as suggested) to provide medical relief in case of an exceptional outbreak of sickness - & that the Medical Dept. will be called upon to assist the people with a certain number of subordinates.

30/10.

The Collector does not say what precautions of relief he has adopted except as to food & water.

3 C.
c 27/10/74
4/11/74

be ready (as suggested) to provide medical relief in case of an exceptional outbreak of sickness, and the Surgeon General, Indian Medical Dept. will be instructed to make the necessary preparations in anticipation.

3. It is a matter for congratulation that so little loss of life has occurred.

4. It will be considered in the Public Works Department whether extra assistance is required by the District Engineer and what measures of prevention should be adopted to protect the country from similar inundations. The Collector, it is observed, roughly estimates the damage to Canals and channels at 3/4 of a lakh of Rupees.

5. The Govt. will be prepared

prepared to consider favorably any further proposals for relief measures should the Collector bring them forward.

Desp.d in M.S.
& Bk. of Rec. 4.

14 To the Board of Revenue Dr. 19 Nov
6 " The Surgeon General Indian Med Dep.t S
21 " The Public Works Dep.t S