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(1) Number of Pages 18

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	1451	Press / Mis.
Dated	24 - 11 - 1874	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 135. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th November 1874 :—

Read the following letter from E. L. PEARSE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of North Arcot, to W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated Vellore, 4th November 1874, No. 782.

I HAVE the honor to report that very serious damage has been done by recent freshes in the Palar—five arches of the Gudiathum Railway Bridge, sixteen arches of the Vellore Bridge, and a large portion of the anicut below Arcot having been destroyed. Heavy rain fell here, and presumably all over the river-basin on the night of the 23rd-24th ultimo. Inches 4·76 were recorded at this station. The river rose on the evening of the 24th, and in the course of the night overflowed its banks a little to the west of the bridge and inundated the fields lying between the river and the Fort. The water passed the road by means of a tunnel and road-dam, and went off eastward without doing any damage, except to the crops. The road acting as a bund sufficed, but barely sufficed to protect the little village of Totapoliem which lies on its east side. The insufficiency of the tunnel at this point had already been recognized, and the Local Fund Board passed a resolution in their September meeting calling for an estimate for a larger bridge.

2. The river continued in flood Sunday and Monday (25th and 26th), and early in the morning of Tuesday I learnt from Colonel Shaw-Stewart that five arches of the Gudiathum Railway Bridge and nine arches of the Palar Bridge were gone. I telegraphed this information to Government, and then got word that seven more arches of this bridge had given way. The first breach was about midnight or very early morning, the second about 8 o'clock. A raft was made during the day, and in the afternoon was tried. It could not be got across the strongest part of the current, that running along the north side, and at last the adventurers had to land again on the same side they had started from, four miles lower down. Next day the force of the stream had somewhat abated, and the voyage was successfully made, since then communication has been kept up more or less efficiently.

3. I have received a report from the Tahsildar of Gudiathum, dated 26th, detailing the damage done at his head-quarters. He says, the Railway Bridge gave way about 4 o'clock that morning, that eighteen houses on his (the north-east) side of the river had fallen, and, as it appeared to him, twenty-one on the other side, but he could not get across to ascertain. The people who lived in those houses had perceived their danger and gone up into the town the previous evening, consequently there was no loss of life.

4. The Arcot Tahsildar's report, dated 30th, says that the old town and the outlying village of Bairagimattam were both threatened with inundation, but that he had the gaps in the embankment effectually stopped. When at Arcot recently, I saw the embankment which runs from the anicut back to the town of Arcot, and from the condition it was in, I should say that a very creditable amount of energy must have been displayed to make it secure under such an inordinately severe test. The villages of Pungodu and Takkancolum were flooded waist deep. The Tahsildar says, he went to see the anicut and found the middle part to the extent, as he conjectures, of about thirty shutters' space had been carried away. The Revenue Inspector reports from

the extreme south east of the taluq that floods of the Cheyar have caused great damage to crops in six villages.

5. I have heard of no loss of life by these floods, except that of one man who was drowned in attempting to cross on a small raft between Vellore and Catpady. I gather that the loss of private property other than crops is slight. The houses which have fallen at Gudiathum seem to be of a poor if not the poorest sort. The Arcot Tahsildar makes no mention of private losses in those of his villages which were flooded, and I have heard of none here. I fear, however, that one effect will be to aggravate the cattle-disease which has lately prevailed to some extent in Arcot Taluq. The road between this town and the river and the road on the side of Arcot are much cut up, but I am not in a position to give any estimate of the amount of damage to them, still less of that to the crops.

6. In my letter, No. 699, dated 23rd September, I reported the breaching of four tanks in Arcot Taluq (three of which were supplied by the anicut) and one in Vellore. A few days later six more in Arcot went, of which three were anicut-fed. The one in Vellore Taluq was admittedly in want of repair, and I think we have great cause of self-gratulation that the two taluqs of Vellore and Gudiathum have escaped so well. Strict care was taken to have all calingulahs kept constantly open, and that precaution seems to have sufficed. I am inclined to believe that if the orders given had been equally well obeyed in Arcot Taluq so many tanks would not have given way. In one case at least it is known that the calingulah was kept shut.

7. Any comment of mine on the disastrous loss of the three great works is needless. On the morning of the 31st, a special meeting of the Local Fund Board of this Circle was held to consider what should be done in consequence of the loss of the Vellore Bridge, and I enclose, herewith, a copy of the Minutes of Proceedings. I have little doubt that Government will acquiesce in the reasonableness of the hope which we venture to entertain, that a liberal contribution will be made from Imperial Funds towards the restoration of that important work. The speedy execution of the work is urgently required, but the speedy supply of such a large sum as would be needed for it could not be granted by the two Local Fund Circles combined without the sacrifice of every other consideration.

No. 568.

SUBMITTED for the information of the Board of Revenue.

VELLORE,
6th November 1874.

(Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Board await the Collector's report on the damages caused throughout the district, and on the means proposed to remedy them.

3. It may be possible to do something to repair roughly the damage in the middle of the Palar Anicut, so that the tanks could be again filled.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

No. 136. ORDER THEREON, 24th November 1874, No. 1,451.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government are much concerned to learn that serious damage has been done to Public Works in the North Arcot District by the recent floods. The submission of the Collector's full report on the subject should be expedited.

2. Paragraph 7 of the Sub-Collector's letter will receive consideration in the Financial Department, and orders will be issued from the Public Works Department for the prompt repair of the irrigation works as well as for the temporary repair, if possible, of the Palar Anicut, as suggested in paragraph 3 of the Board's Proceedings.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Financial Department.

Exd. W. H. French.

Revenue Department

No 135 Read the following 3

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

dated 14th November 1874

No 782 Read the following

From,

E. L. Pearce Esquire

Acting Sub Collector of North Arcot

To,

W. F. Whiteside Esquire

Collector of North Arcot

Sir,

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Govt. of Madras
REVENUE.
To
THE BOARD of REVENUE,
&c, &c, &c.

Rd 16th November 1874.
Read

G. O. 21th November 1874, No. 1451.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 135-136.

Report from the Collector, North Arcot—Reporting the destruction done to Public Works by the—and requesting the Board to sanction the Estimates of the following Repairs to the Gudiatham Railway Bridge, Vellore Bridge, and Anicut below Arcot.

the night of the 23rd-24th Ultimo. Inches 4/8 were recorded at this station. The river rose on the evening of the 24th and in the course of the night overflowed its banks a little to the west of the bridge and inundated the fields lying between the river and the Fort. The water passed the road by means of a tunnel and road clear, and went off eastward without doing any damage except the crops. The road acting as a bund sufficed, but barely sufficed to protect the little Village of Totapolium which lies on its East side. The insufficiency of the tunnel at this point had already been recognized and the Local Fund Board passed a resolution in their September Meeting calling for an estimate for a larger bridge.

2. The river continued in flood

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Summary

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North Arcot Sub Collr's Office
Vellore 4th November 1874.

I have &c
(Sd.) E.L. Pearse
Asst Sub Collector

No. 568

Submitted for the information of the Board of Revenue

North Arcot Collector's Office
Camp Vellore 6th November 1874.

(Signed) W.S. Whiteside
Collector

Submitted

1

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board await the Collector's report on the damages caused throughout the District and on the means proposed to remedy them.

3. It may be possible to do something to repair roughly the damage in the middle of the Polar cement, so that the tanks could be again filled.

True copies Extract

H. Lee
Secretary

To,

The Acting Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

B. Naughton
(Sd.) M. Narasimha Chary

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Revenue Department.

No. 1451

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 24th November 1874.

READ the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting report of Collector of N. Arcot on the very serious damage that has been done by recent floods in the Palar to certain bridges. — H. E. 14th November 1874.

The Government are much concerned to learn that serious damage has been done to Public Works in the North Arcot district by the recent floods. The submission of the Collector's full report on the subject should be expedited [and explanation should be called for as to what the orders given for keeping the

Mr. Sub Coll knows of a mere hint — He only knows of one case — the others have arisen

21/11

23/11

No. 3973
Revenue 18th Dec. 1874.
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 14th November 1874.
Rec'd 17th ——
Read ——

S.C.P.No. 1451-24th November 1874.

Submitting for information of Govt. report of Collector of North Arcot on the very serious damage that has been done by recent floods in the Palar to certain Bridges and awaiting Collr's report on the damages caused thereby & what aid or remuneration he proposes to remedy them.

135

c. 21/11/74. R. 24/11/74

8

Revenue Department.

No. 1451

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

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135

c. 21/11/74. R. 24/11/74

~~the Circular referred to were not carried out in the Board Estate~~

2. Para 7 of the Sub-Collector's letter will receive consideration in the Financial department, and orders will be issued from the Public Works department for the prompt repair of the irrigation works as well as for the temporary repair, if possible, of the Palar Ament as suggested in para 3 of the Board's Proceedings.

14 The Board of Revenue &c &c
21 " Public Works Department &c
5 " Financial Department &c

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135-136.

R. 21/11/54. R 24/11/54.