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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	107	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	15.5.1874	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 123. Read the following endorsement of the Revenue Department, dated Fort St. George, 13th March 1874 :—

Proceedings of the Court of Wards, dated 10th March 1874; No. 538.
From W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector, Godavery District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Court of Wards, dated Cocanada, 21st February 1874, No. 39.

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a letter from the Sub-Collector, dated 9th instant, No. 31, regarding the proposed embankment for the Polavaram Island, and to request that the Board will, with reference to the Court's Proceedings of the 24th ultimo, No. 123, ask the Government to pass orders soon.

From J. G. HORSFALL, Esq., Sub-Collector, to W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, dated Kottapetta, 9th February 1874, No. 31.

I HAVE the honour to bring to your notice that nothing has as yet been done towards carrying out the proposed embankment for the Polavaram Island. An estimate has been forwarded I am informed by the District Engineer, and sanction only is required for the immediate commencement of the work which is so urgently needed, and which, if sanction is not very shortly given, must be postponed for another year.

2. I trust I may be excused if I make a few remarks upon the nature of the work and the circumstances connected with it, as I am sure that but for some misapprehension with regard thereto, the work would have long since been completed. On my recent tour round the island, I made particular inquiries from both the Government and proprietary ryots, and believe from my own observation that the information I obtained is correct.

3. All admit that the embankment was made at the expense of Government about twenty years ago; that it was made by Assistant Overseer, 2nd Corporal Filler (not Piller, as stated by Mr. Stuart, who was misled by the Native pronunciation); that it was commenced when Mr. Prendergast was Collector, and completed after Mr. Purvis had succeeded him; that the sluices in the embankment extending along the proprietary villages were built and repaired by the proprietor at his own cost; and that this portion of the embankment has ever since been kept up and repaired by the proprietor, and continued to be so until the estate came under management, since when, until Mr. Stuart commenced, no expenditure was laid out upon maintenance. The brick sluices are now in a ruined state, and the embankment sadly needs strengthening and re-constructing here and there throughout the seven miles of its length bordering on the proprietary portion. With a further outlay of about 2,000 Rupees, the embankment of this portion might, I feel sure, be put into a fair state of repair and made efficient. For some distance a new line of embankment will have to be taken, as the Godavery has made considerable encroachments and sapped the former line; no engineering skill is required for this work, nor is the Godavery in any way affected thereby.

4. The District Engineer appears to me to have completely misunderstood Mr. Stuart's action in the matter, and cannot, I think, have personally inspected the locality, or he could not have objected to his going on with the work of repairing and maintaining the river embankment, a work which had hitherto been done without hindrance or question by the late proprietor since the last twenty years. I admit however that with regard to the building of sluices in the embankment the opinion of the District Engineer should be taken as to their number, size, and position.

5. Perhaps the embankments raised on both sides the Godavery from Dowlaisweram downwards have caused a greater volume of water to be retained within the bed of the river, and so increased the body of water which annually floods the Polavaram Island, but it must always have been subjected to inundation when the freshes came down, and the effect of the embankments has been greatly exaggerated. That the island was flooded is apparent from the fact that all over the island are plots of land carefully embanked in to prevent inundation, and surrounded with trees of many years growth, showing that these banks were raised long prior to the anicut, and that consequently the necessity for them pre-existed.

6. Judging from analogous cases, of which we have several in this district, I think it very likely that the embankment round the island was made to protect the Government villages; that

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th May 1874.*

the proprietor of that day either could not or would not undertake his share of the work, and that, as it would have been idle to raise a bund opposite the Government villages only leaving the floods to enter through the proprietor's portion, the whole embankment [was erected at the sole expense of Government. I am informed too that the proprietor and Inamdars were actually compensated for the land taken up by the embankment.

7. As in the one case it would have been idle to erect a bund opposite the Government villages, so on the other hand it would be useless now to repair the proprietary portion of the embankment, unless the Government portion which is much more extensive be repaired simultaneously. The Government portion seems to have been neglected from the outset, the embankment has for the greater part been swallowed up by the Golavery, which on this side is washing away the Government lands annually, in consequence, I am informed, of the formation of the Pillanka lunka, and the erection of groynes on the Ramachendrapur side of the river at, or near, Masakapalli. I have already drawn the District Engineer's attention to this, and requested him to take measures for the prevention of further loss to Government.

8. This work might be carried out in conjunction with the line of road already sanctioned and now in progress from Amalapur through Yedurlanka on the Polavaram Island to Yenam, Coringa, and Cocanada. Instead of two separate embankments we shall have one, and the river embankment will necessarily be strengthened by being made a road.

9. I trust I may be excused for the length of this letter. The present state of the island is, I feel, a reproach to us. The ryots are impoverished, and valuable lands are being relinquished and left waste, whereas in other parts of this taluq almost every available inch of land is greedily taken up. Remissions, though liberally given, will not prevent this downward tendency. Each year the ryots are becoming more and more indebted to the Soucars, and were it not from an inherent clinging to the place of their birth would, I have no doubt, long since have quitted the Island. Whatever the cost may be I trust that no longer delay will be allowed to occur in carrying out the work, and unhesitatingly assert that the outlay will be more than recouped in the course of a few years. Should the project of bringing an aqueduct from the bank canal be hereafter realized, I see no reason why the Polavaram Island should not become in all respects equal to the Nagaram Division, which is notoriously the garden of the district, and which owes its prosperity, I believe, entirely to the Gannavaram aqueduct.

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of the Court's Proceedings, 24th January 1874, No. 123, with request that early orders may be passed, lest another season be lost.

2. The Sub-Collector's letter shows how important it is that the work should be executed at once, and also that the claims of the estate of Kesanakurru are still stronger than they have hitherto been represented to be. The Court are persuaded that Mr. Horsfall's assertion that the restoration of the embankment is necessary in the interests of Government as well as of the proprietors of estates concerned is true. The account which he gives of relinquishment and desertion of lands and progressive impoverishment of the ryots is deplorable. On the facts as now stated it appears to the Court questionable whether the estate has not well grounded claim against Government for compensation for the loss which has accrued, and which will yet accrue if action is postponed. The Court have noticed with regret that a sum of Rupees 20,000 which had been provided in the Irrigation Budget for 1874-75 for the embankment has been struck out in the Public Works Department (Government Order, 24th January 1874, No. 162B).

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th May 1874.*

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department, for early orders, in continuation of Proceedings, Board of Revenue, 24th January 1874, No. 123.

FORT ST. GEORGE, (Signed) C. G. MASTER,
13th March 1874. Acting Secretary to Government, R.D.,

No. 124. ORDER THEREON, 5th May 1874, No. 1,202.

IRRIGATION, No. 11.

RECORDED, with reference to G. O.,
No. 477, dated 25th February 1874.

(True Extract.)

W. H. L. L.
Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.
Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" District Engineer, Godavery.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. E. C. Shank

Spare Copies

will follow from Madras.

1525

Revenue 1874 Department
Govt. of 1874 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CHIEF ENGINEER for IRRIGATION.

Ac. Ac. Ac.

Dated May 5th

Recd. 13 do.

Encl.

G. O. No. 1371, No. 1,291

MAY.

Nos. 123-124

12/5. 20/10

no 107.
Communicated to the
Court of Wards.

15 May '74

YLL

Poluvaram Island, Godavery District.—
Proceedings of the Court of Wards submitting
letter from Collector of Godavery Dis-
trict forwarding the report of the Sub-
Collector on the proposed embankment for
the island, near the station.

14 To the Court of Wards 20 May 1874

1/10

11th under