

(1) Number of Pages..... 4
(2) Date of repair..... 2-4-68
(3) Initials of the Referencer..... 15.11.68

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

192

Press

B.P. No.

Mis.

Dated

28-1-1875 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
28th December 1874.*

No. 487. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, in the Revenue Department, dated 24th November 1874, No. 1,451:—

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, 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 and 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 this 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 mid-night 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 Takkanancolum were flooded waist

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
28th December 1874.*

deep. The Tahsildar says he went to see the anicut and found the middle part to the extent, as he conjectures, of about 30 shutters' space, had been carried away. The Revenue Inspector reports, from the extreme south-east of the taluq, that floods of the Cheyaur 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 Cautpady. 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.

CAMP, 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.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
28th December 1874.*

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.

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.

No. 488.

ORDER THEREON, 28th December 1874, No. 3,619.

IRRIGATION, No. 41.

COMMUNICATED to the District Engineer, North Arcot, who, the Government are aware, is doing all that is practicable to repair the damage done by the October floods. A report of what it may have been found practicable to do in temporarily closing the breach in the Palar anicut should be submitted as soon as possible.

2. In anticipation of sanction to a grant of Rupees 50,000 additional to the existing grant of Rupees 2,13,950 for New Works, Agricultural, Ordinary, for which application will immediately be made to the Government of India, to enable the reconstruction of important Irrigation Works reported as damaged in the North Arcot and other districts to be immediately undertaken, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to place a sum of Rupees 30,000 at the disposal of the District Engineer. His application for executive aid has been complied with in another order.

(Here enter No. 3,619A, dated 28th December 1874.)
(True Extract.)

C. G. Master Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, North Arcot.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

N^o 298
Revenue Department
Govt. of Madras
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER, NORTH
ARCOT.

&c. &c. &c.

Dated December 28th.

Recd. January 26/75 Encl.

G. O., 28th December 1874, No. 3,619.

DECEMBER

Nos. 487-488

14 To the Secy. of the Govt. of Madras, 1 Feb

will send

Floods, North Arcot District.—Proceedings in the Revenue Department, passing orders on the report of damage to Public Works by floods, communicated to the District Engineer. A report of what it may have been found practicable to do in temporarily closing the breach in the Palar (ancient to be submitted, and Rupees 30,000 placed at his disposal for the repair of damaged works.

N^o 193
Comm. to the
Board of Revenue
28 Jan'y 75 *qll*