M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 4.

(2) Date of repair 29-10-68.

(3) Initials of the Referencer

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

## GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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| G.O. No. | 2541. | Press |
| B.P. No. | | Mis. |

Dated 3-11-1875 196 .

*Not to be folded or roughly handled*

**Provincial Services.**

No. 172. Read the following letter from G. VANSAGNEW, Esq., Collector and President of the Municipal Commissions, Nellore, to the Honorable D. F. CARMICHAEL, Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Nellore, 13th September 1875, No. 2468:—

I have the honor to address the Government on the subject of the flood damages to public property in the Nellore Municipality.

2. I closed my letter, printed with G.O., Revenue Department, dated the 4th November 1874, No. 1396, with the words, "I trust that the Municipality may also look to Government for a substantial grant to aid them in repairing damages," and the Government observed thereupon, "the wants of the Municipality will be considered in the Financial Department when more is known of the damages which has been done in the town and the probable outlay which may be necessary."

3. This promise was repeated in G.O., Revenue Department, dated the 6th November 1874, No. 1406.

4. The last paragraph of my letter, submitting the Budget Estimates of the Municipality for the current year, printed with G.O., Financial Department, dated 19th February last, No. 366, was as follows: "I hope soon to be able to submit a complete list of the damages done by the flood. The District Engineer has been unable to furnish some of the necessary estimates, but he expects very shortly to have an officer available to make them. In the mean while, as Collector, I have advanced the funds necessary, not only to restore the communications, but to employ the numerous poor people who suffered by the flood. The restoration of the roads is almost completed."

5. I have now to report that, in accordance with the above intimation, I have advanced the sum of Rupees 9,726-15-0, and expended it on the restoration of the works entered in the accompanying statement. I beg the special sanction of Government to this expenditure, and that I may be enabled to adjust the advance. The estimated balance of Rupees 8,000 out of the special grant of Rupees 50,000, sanctioned in G.O., Revenue Department, dated 24th November 1874, No. 1449, will be available for this purpose. I have ready detailed bills and vouchers for the above expenditure, and I may say that good value for the money has been obtained in the work done.

6. In addition to the above sum actually spent, I have to request the Government to aid the Municipality by a grant of Rupees 17,450 for the following works:—

| | Rs. |
|---|---|
| 1. Restoring Dykes' Skew Bridge ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 5,450 |
| 2. Reconstructing the Slaughter-house ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2,580 |
| 3. Rebuilding the Dresser's House ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1,380 |
| 4. Value of portions of Water Project Works destroyed... ... ... ... | 4,000 |
| 5. ,, ,, Lamp-posts lost... ... ... ... ... | 140 |
| 6. Raising above flood-level the road from the Hospital to the Skew Bridge ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 3,900 |
| Total ... | 17,450 |

7. Estimates furnished by the Officiating Superintending Engineer for the first three works, in which their condition is fully described, are submitted herewith.

8. The sum of Rupees 4,000 is a very moderate valuation of the portions of the Water Project Works destroyed. The Commissioners had spent Rupees 8,915 on this work.

9. The last work, for which I submit an estimate kindly furnished to me by the Officiating Superintending Engineer, is designed to protect from similar floods certain low-lying and thickly-populated parts of the fort portion of the town. Formerly this part of the town was amply protected by the ramparts. Writing on the 17th October 1804, just after what, from his account of it, would seem to have been a higher flood even than the last one, the then Collector, Mr. J. B. Travers, said, "The fort was happily preserved by the walls, without which the whole town would have been swept away, nor do I imagine less than 10,000 souls would have been lost on this occasion."

10. Mr. Dykes however insisted on partially levelling the ramparts on the western side of the fort, and although the townspeople protested as strongly as they could and even petitioned Government against this measure, Mr. Dykes succeeded in carrying it into effect. The flood consequently had free access into the town and played the very havoc which the people had foreboded, but which Mr. Dykes had denied the possibility of.

11. I beg to enclose a very rough sketch, but which will I think be sufficient to explain to the Government how the matter stands.

12. The road from the Civil Hospital to the skew bridge is already a tolerably high embankment. All the water that got into the fort passed over it, but without cutting or injuring it except in one place near the skew bridge. If it were raised, as contemplated in the estimate, to 1½ feet above the late flood line, the fort would, at a moderate cost, be again practically as well protected as it was in Mr. Travers' days, and before Mr. Dykes destroyed the ramparts.

13. It is quite true that, with the money and care which the Government are going to bestow on the river embankment from the Narsimhuda hill down to the anicut, the town of Nellore ought never to be flooded in future, but money had been spent before and care taken and still the embankment, which was considered sufficient, breached. The townspeople will never have confidence in a river embankment alone. Nothing will restore this to them but the restoration of the ramparts, or the execution of the work I now propose.

14. On sanitary grounds, it is very desirable that the fort ditch should be filled up, and the whole of the remaining ramparts levelled, but of course the people will never consent to this step, nor could it be recommended until such a line of defence has been substituted as will thoroughly restore the confidence of the townspeople.

15. I therefore earnestly trust that the Government will sanction the work, and furnish the funds for its execution.

16. I regret having been unable to submit this report earlier, but the last estimate was only received in July, and the accounts of expenditure had to be arranged and put into the form of bills. The severe visitation of cholera we have had has also greatly obstructed business during the past two months.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,*
*22nd November* 1875.

No. 173. ORDER THEREON, 22nd November 1875, No. 2267.

Sanction is accorded to the expenditure within Nellore municipal limits of the balance remaining from the Rupees 50,000 placed at the disposal of the Collector for relief purposes in connection with last year's floods. A renewed application for additional funds to satisfy the requirements of Nellore, Tinnevelly, and Chittoor, will be made to the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

*Officiating Chief Secretary.*

To the President of the Municipal Commissions, Nellore District.
" Public Works Department.
" Revenue Department.
" Board of Revenue.
" Accountant-General.
" Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.

Ed. J. Wright.

Revenue 1875 & 76

№ 4653

Govt. of Illinois

FINANCIAL.

Jan 1st

— " — 2d

NOVEMBER

Nos. 173–174.

№ 2541

Lodged

3 Months