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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

14th May 1877, No. 1,700-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 240-A. From J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Budwail, 28th April 1877, Extra No. 955.

I have the honor, with the concurrence of the District Engineer, to refer the following matter for the orders of Government.

2. On 5th January last, before I joined the district and before the existing stringent orders on the subject of commencing, for the purposes of famine relief, only works which had been sanctioned were issued, the Acting Sub-Collector, after consulting upon the spot with Messrs Traill and Maclean, both officers of the Public Works Department, determined to begin closing the breaches in the Kunchalaramah Tank in his division.

3. This work, which is of considerable antiquity, and which breached, it is said, more than 100 years ago, is situated about 2½ miles south-east of Royachoti. It must have been a very large tank, and was formed by damming up the Mandavi River which flows past the town of Royachoti. It has breached in two places owing, in the opinion of Colonel Moberly, to the insufficiency of its escapes.

4. Of the two breaches, one is at the point where the river was banded up, and the other further up to the westward. The remainder of the bund appears to my unprofessional eye to be sound and strong, and the District Engineer has expressed no opinion to the contrary.

5. The work undertaken by Mr. Gribble was under the immediate direction of Mr. Maclean, and when I saw it in the course of the tour which I made in the sub-division just after joining the district, I found that the sides of both breaches had been stepped, the sand in the larger one cleared out down to the solid earth, and that a portion of the lesser breach had been cleared and filled and the old revetment pulled down and stacked. The work was then at a stand-still owing to the coolies having run away on account of an outbreak of cholera. A considerable sum of money had, I believe, been expended upon it.

6. Very shortly after I had seen the tank, the District Engineer wrote to me upon Mr. Maclean's diary, pointing out that its restoration had been begun without due inquiry as to the agricultural advantages to be derived therefrom. I replied, observing out that a good deal had been done towards closing the breaches and that, if work was stopped, all the money so spent would be thrown away. I however expressed my willingness to at once stop operations if he considered it desirable, and requested that he would at an early date inspect the tank.

7. This Colonel Moberly did, and sent me a report in which he gave an account of the condition of the tank and expressed the opinion that "Government would not think the restoration of it a proper famine relief-work." He admitted at the same time that there was a great deal of earth-work to be done, but thought that the most expensive part of the undertaking would be the weir and revetment. He further stated that orders for a careful survey and section of the bund and tank-bed had been issued, but he did not reply to my question touching stopping work.

8. Upon this communication I wrote to the Acting Sub-Collector, directing him to stop work until further orders; but after I had signed my letter and before it was despatched, a demi-official note from Mr. Gribble reached me, stating that he had received a copy of Colonel Moberly's letter, and had talked over matters with him, and that, in consequence, he had determined to go on with the work of closing the lesser breach as soon as possible.

9. I then kept this letter in abeyance and wrote to the District Engineer, telling him what Mr. Gribble had stated, and expressing my doubts as to whether that officer's views were in consonance with his. I again distinctly asked for an opinion in regard to going on with the work or at once stopping it. I observed that if it was not proposed to repair the tank, I did not see the utility of throwing away more money upon it.

10. The reply which I received to this did not contain the opinion sought, but merely stated that so long as the greater breach was not closed, there was no fear for the other parts of the tank.

11. Upon this I again wrote to Colonel Moberly asking for a reply to my previous inquiry, pointing out that it was necessary to enable me to decide whether to put a stop to the work or not that I should have the opinion of the executive engineering authority of the district, and suggesting that if he could not give me an expression of his views either one way or the other, a reference should be made to Government.

12. The answer which I received to this was that in the District Engineer's opinion "the question of the restoration of the Kunchalamnah Tank should be referred to Government," and that the stoppage of the closing of the lesser breach "must depend upon your requiring work in that neighbourhood for famine-relief coolies."

13. It will thus be seen that although I have twice distinctly and clearly asked the District Engineer's opinion upon a particular question, he has studiously avoided giving me one. It appears to me a matter upon which he could have easily told me what he thought.

14. What the benefit of restoring the Kunchalamnah Tank will, from an agricultural point of view, be, I have not any definite idea. From the cursory examination which I made of the country below it, I should think that it would irrigate a large area; but there is another consideration apart from this which should be weighed, and which is that within the bed of the tank there is a copious spring of excellent water, part of which is now employed to irrigate fields, whilst part runs to waste in the sands of the river below. The Mandavi, as I have said, runs past Royachoti which is noted for its bad supply of water, and the presence of a large reservoir above it, such as the Kunchalamnah Tank would be if restored, would probably materially and beneficially affect the water-supply below.

15. I shall feel favored by the instructions of Government as to what I am to do. There are many coolies about Royachoti who require work, and those discharged from the relief-camp must be found employment. Mr. Gribble is still closing the lesser breach.

Revenue Department, 11*th May* 1877, *No.* 1,700-*A*.

No. 240-B. ORDER THEREON, 11th May 1877, No. 1,700-A.

Miscellaneous.

The closing of the lesser breach should be completed, and all repairs to the bund, including reformation of the revetment which can be done by labor needing relief, should be carried out. The principal breach should be left open until adequate escapes have been provided, and the District Engineer should be called on for plans and estimates of the cost of finishing the work. When these are received the Government will be in a position to decide how far the complete restoration of the bund should be carried out.

(*True Extract.*)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Cuddapah.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the *Financial Department*.

Esd. F. R. Pantleman.

Cuddapah Collectors Office

Camp Cuddapah

Extract No 55 25th April 1977.

From J. F. Price Esquire

Actig Collector of Cuddapah

To J. H. Garstin Esquire

Additional Secretary to Government

in Fort St. George.

Sir,

I have the honor, with the concurrence of the District Engineer, to refer the following matter for the orders of Government.

2. On January last, before I joined the District, in order to the erecting [illegible] -gent endeavors the subject of conveyance, for the purpose of [illegible] only part of which had been completed, were placed, the Acting Collector applied consulting upon the spot with the Superintending Engineer, both Officers of the P.W.D. determined to begin clearing the breaches in the Municipal area bank

in his Division.

3. This work, which is very considerable in quantity, and which breached, it is said, more than 100 years ago, is situated about 2½ miles South Easterly Royaghly. It must have been a very large sluice and was formed by damming up the Mandavi river, which flows past the Town of Royaghly. It has breached in two places owing, in the opinion of Colonel Moberly, to the insufficiency of the sluices.

4. Of the two breaches, one is at the point where the river was bended up and the other further up to the Eastward. Neither of the banks appears, to my unprofessional eye, to be wanted strengthening the District Engineer has expressed no opinion to the contrary.

5. The work undertaken by Mr

Gibbs was under the immediate direction of Mr Charleau and when I saw it, in the course of the tour which I made in the Sub Division prior to joining the District, I found that the side of the breach had been cleared out down to the solid earth, and that a portion of the lesser breach had been cleared and filled and the old sluice secured for the present.

And the work was also in a clean and tidy condition owing to the cooler having been away on account of an outbreak of cholera. No complaints of any money had, I believe, been expended upon it.

6. Very shortly after I had seen the work, the District Engineer wrote to me, upon Mr Charleau's leaving, inquiring what I considered should be the agricultural

advantage to be derived therefrom.

3d Explained obliquely that a good deal had been done towards clearing the Channel and that if work were stopped all the money so spent would be thrown away. However expressed my willingness to at once stop operations, if he considered it desirable, and requested that he would, at an early date, inspect the Works.

4th Mr Colonel Raverty did accordingly make a report in which he gave an account of the condition of the Channel expressed the opinion that Government should stick to the undertaking & finish the Channel & a proper Channel kept open. He pointed out that there were a great deal of earth work to be done, but thought that the main expensive part of the undertaking would be the weir and reservoir. He further stated that nothing for a certain distance of Survey and section of the ground and Canal had been effected, but he did not reply to my question touching stopping work.

5. Upon this Communication I wrote to the Acting Colonial Secretary desiring him to stop work until further orders & after I had signed my letter and before it was despatched a Memorandum was made from Mr Priddle to say that he had received a letter from Colonel Raverty & that he had written & sent Mr Priddle a letter which he (Mr Priddle) had forwarded to Colonel Raverty.

6. When he received his letter he wrote to the District Engineer telling him what Mr Priddle had stated & expressing my doubts & whether

that Officer's views were in communication with his. I again distinctly asked for an opinion in regard to going on with the work or abandoning it. He answered that, if it was not proposed to repair the Locks, I did not see the utility of throwing away more money upon it.

10. The reply which I received to this did not contain the opinion sought, but merely stated that so long as the present breach was not enlarged there was no fear for the destruction of the Canal.

11. Upon this I again wrote to Colonel Rebotty asking for a reply to my previous enquiry, pointing out that it was necessary to enable me to decide whether to push on the work or not that I should have the opinion of the Chief Engineering Authority of the District, and suggesting that if he could not give me an expression of his views either one way or the other

a reference should be made to Government.

12. The answer which I received to this was that in the District Engineer's opinion "the question of the restoration of the Navigable Canal should be referred to Government" and that the discharge of the Canal "must depend upon your requiring work in that neighbourhood for Famine Relief Works".

13. It will thus be seen that although I have twice distinctly and clearly asked the District Engineer's opinion upon a particular question, he has studiously avoided giving me one. It appears to me a matter upon which he could have easily told me what he thought.

14. Under the benefit of receiving the Kennedy Canal Tank will, from an agricultural point of view, be, I have not any definite idea. From the cursory examination which

a Channels of the County below it, should
a think that it would require a large
a area, but those in another Corridor from
a that from which should be supplied
a and which is that within the keep
c the Garden there is a copious spring of
c excellent water, part of which is
c now employed to irrigate fields, which if
part were made use of the water of the
upper below. He Mandari river part
Perennially which is wasted for want
supply or a reservoir and the presence of
a large reservoir above it which as
the Mercharlarama part would be
if required, would probably practically
and beneficially afford the water
supply below.

15. Should feed favoured by
the encouragement Government now
would have Same to do. There are many
Coolies about Rajaholy who receive

work and those discharged from the
Relief Camp must be found employ-
ment. Mr. Gibbs is still clearing
the Lower Breach.

Have the honor &c

Your Most Obd Servant

Redmenhead

Lt Collector.

Encl

Rec. 7/12/C

14

Dear Sir

Please let Mr Brooks have
his repairs undertaken
& estimate of cost
for doing the labour-
relief.

Leave the principal breach open
until adequate security has
been provided.

Ascertain what the whole
work will cost and then
decide as to completion

Yours