Archives 1—10,000—6-10-76.

(1) Number of pages 28

(2) Date of repair 29.5.79

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No. 2699	Press. / Mis.

Dated 11.9.(8)77 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

2699

11th September 1877, No. 2,699.

Read the following papers :—

No. 178. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th August 1877, No. 4,022.

Read the following letter from R. J. MELVILLE, Esq., Acting Collector of Madras, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 9th August 1877, No. 225.

I HAVE the honor to submit the report called for in the Board's Proceedings, No. 10,151, dated 18th July last.

2. The breach of the Veysurpaudy tank occurred on the night of the 18th May last owing to the very heavy rainfall of the preceding three days. Though the conservancy of the Madras tanks is under the control of the Deputy Collector, still repairs and improvements to the tank bunds, calingulas, and sluices are invariably carried out by the District Engineer on estimates prepared by that officer and countersigned by the Collector. The Deputy Collector accordingly reported the occurrence of the breach to the District Engineer on the 19th May, the day after its occurrence, and requested that steps might be taken to have the breach closed. Meantime endeavors were made, under the direction of the Conicopillay of the Perambore Division, to temporarily close the breach. The villagers were actively engaged in closing the breach when the Overseer of the Department of Public Works arrived on the morning of the 21st and the breach was closed on that date.

3. In answer to the queries contained in paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 2,261, dated 9th July 1877, recorded in the Board's Proceedings under reply, the District Engineer states that there are traces of serious erosions below revetment in many places and for great lengths, but no signs of any erosion adjacent to the breach on either side; that the depth of water on the east of the calingula was 1·18 feet; that there is nothing to show that the bund at the breach had been worn down by being used as a pathway; and that there is nothing on either side of the breach to show the cause thereof.

4. The cause of the breach is attributed by the District Engineer to the faulty construction of the tank bund. On this point I beg to forward, in original, a letter received from that officer.

5. In reply to paragraph 3 of the Government Order, I beg to state that the tank bund is seemingly in good condition at present.

6. The enclosures received with the Board's Proceedings under reply are returned.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Mr. PIMM, Supervisor, in charge of Northern Range, to Major ROSS THOMPSON, R.E., District Engineer, Presidency, dated Fort St. George, 31st July 1877, No. 147.

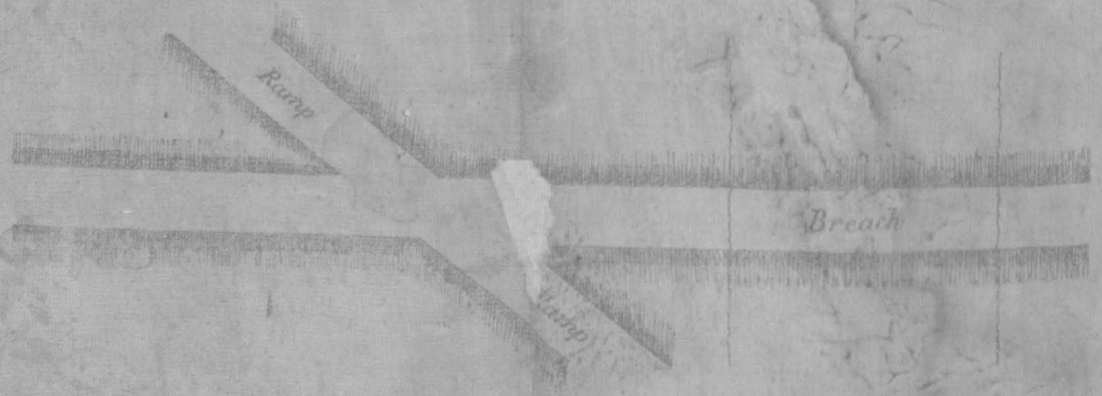
IN reply to your No. 2,309 of the 24th instant, I most respectfully beg to inform you that I met the Tahsildar of Madras as ordered, and I pointed out to that officer what I considered the defective state of the Veysurpaudy tank bund.

The following are my answers to ques a, b, c, and d to the best of my judgment and observations of the state of the tank when it breached :—

Reply to question a.—There are traces f serious erosions below revetment in many places and for great lengths, but no sign of any eros n adjacent to the breach on either side.

Reply to question b.—The depth of wate on crest of calingulah was 1·18 feet.

Reply to question c.—The breach occurred just on the west side of the ramp that is used for allowing cattle to pass over the bund; please see rough sketch.



The bund on each side of breach and to ramp is in good order, and there is nothing to show that the bund at the breach had been down by being used as a path-way.

Reply to question d.—The causes of th k breaching are as follow :—

1*st*.—The faulty construction of the revetment; no puddle wall in of the revetment: the revetment is built nearly perpendicular instead of havin a slope of 1½ or 1¼ to 1. The sectional area of the bund is very inadequate, co sidering the bad nature of the soil it is made with; the soil is of a salty and spungy nature. Cross section of breach forwarded.

I beg to point out that I consider the r on the inner side of the bund was one of the chief causes of tank breaching in that parti place, as the ramp acted as a groyne during the time the high westerly winds prevailed.

If the tank had not breached where it did, a very large portion of the east and north bunds would have been entirely washed away level wit the roadway.

Concluding, I beg to state that I do not c sider that any portion of the tank bund is safe during any ordinary monsoon with insufficie sectional area and faulty construction.

I consider it is my duty to give a short a count when the breach occurred, and what steps were taken to stop it. On the morning of the st May, at about 8 A.M., I was casually informed by the Overseer in charge of the Famine Relie Work at the Veysurpaudy Magazine (which work I was inspecting) that the Veysurpaudy tank h d breached on the 18th May. Considering the tank was under my charge, I went at once to the br ach; no Revenue Officer had reported the case to any Department Public Works Officer, and the villagers who had lands under the tank were then trying to stop the breach; every credit I consid r must be given them, although at such a late time; they were taking the doors of their house to assist in forming a ring bund. To assist them I at once sent to the fort for a large number of d fortification doors and put on what labor could be obtained. The breach was closed within three hours from the time I arrived at the breach. It was not until a day or two after the breach was closed that official notice reached me that the tank had breached, and a very absurd statement was made that the Perambore tank was in danger, owing to the breaching of the Veysurpaudy tank. The Perambore tank is on a much higher level.

Had any of the villagers or Revenue officia reported the breaching of the tank either to the District Engineer (yourself) or to me, I wo ld have at once done my best to have saved the tank bo n by stopping the breach and strengthe ning the east and north bunds.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G.O., dated 9th July 1877, No. 2,261.

2. The District Engineer has not given any opinion. He simply forwards the report of Mr. Supervisor Pimm. From that report it is clear that the breach was due to the faulty construction of the bund; is nothing to show that the bund was worn away at the spot as suggested e Chief Engineer for Irrigation; indeed the existence of a ramp close by w eem to show that such a state of affairs was improbable. The breach is said ve been reported to the District Engineer on the 19th, but the Supervisor only ually heard of it on the 21st. In the meantime the villagers did their best to p the breach, but had Mr. Pimm received intimation earlier, the damage would re been less. It is not explained why no action was taken by the District En r when the breach was reported to him, but he probably assumed that the inst ons laid down in Standing Order No. 53 had been attended to, and informatic ven to the nearest Public Works subordinate. The Collector will report why was not done.

(True Copies and xtract.)

(Si ed) J. STURROCK,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 179. Proceedings of Government in t Public Works Department, dated 24th August 1877, No. 248 I.

ABSTRACT.—Communicating to the Rever Department report on the breach in the Veysurpaudy tank, Presidency District

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No. 180. ORDER THEREON, 11th Sep ber 1877, No. 2,699.

Irrigation, No. 4.

appears that no special blame attac s to any Department. The acci- dem attributable to the general faulty construction of the bund and the extraordinary ll of rain in May.

2. Orders will issue in the Public Works partment to the District Engineer to pay special attention to the banks. Thoug the general minor conservancy is en usted to the Revenue Department, meas s for the stability and repair lie* with Department Public Works.

* G.O., 24th July 1873, No. 777.

3. The claim for compensation put forw y certain residents of Veysurpaudy in their application of the 28th May last ot be complied with.

(True Extract

(Signe C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Gover ment.

To the Public Works Department.
,, the Board of Revenue.
Copy of paragraph 3 to Mr. Cyrus Grant for information a nmunication to the other applicants.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

24th August 1877, No. 248 I.

Irrigation.

Read the following papers :—

No. 72. From Major ROSS THOMPSON, R.E., District Engineer, Presidency, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Fort St. George, 3rd August 1877, No. 2,501.

With reference to G.O., No. 2,261, dated 9th July 1877, Revenue Department, communicated with No. 33 I, dated 31st July 1877, from the Under Secretary to Government, Irrigation Branch, I have the honor to forward a copy of letter from the Supervisor, Northern Range, No. 147, dated 31st July 1877, together with a rough sketch of the breach of the Veysurpandy tank.

One copy of letter.
" sketch.

From Mr. PIMM, Supervisor, In charge of Northern Range, to Major ROSS THOMPSON, R.E., District Engineer, Presidency, dated Fort St. George, 31st July 1877, No. 147.

In reply to your No. 2,309 of the 24th instant, I most respectfully beg to inform you that I sent the Tahsildar of Madras as ordered, and I pointed out to that officer what I considered the defective state of the Veysurpandy tank bund.

The following are my answers to questions a, b, c, and d to the best of my judgment and observations of the state of the tank when it was breached :—

Reply to question a.—There are traces of serious erosions below revetment in many places and for great lengths, but no sign of any erosion adjacent to the breach on either side.

Reply to question b.—The depth of water on crest of sullingulah was 1·18 feet.

Reply to question c.—The breach occurred just on the west side of the ramp that is used for allowing cattle to pass over the bund ; please see rough sketch.



The bund on each side of breach and top of ramp is in good order, and there is nothing to show that the bund at the breach had been worn down by being used as a path-way.

Reply to question d.—The causes of the tank breaching are as follow :—

1*st.*—The faulty construction of the tank bund ; there is little or no foundation to the revetment ; no puddle wall in rear of the revetment ; the revetment is built nearly perpendicular instead of having a slope of 1¼, or 1½ to 1. The sectional area of the bund

is very inadequate, considering the bad nature of the soil it is made with; the soil is of a salty and spungy nature. Cross section of breach forwarded.

I beg to point out that I consider the ramp on the inner side of the bund was one of the chief causes of tank breaching in that particular place as the ramp acted as a groyne during the time the high westerly winds prevailed.

If the tank had not breached where it did, a very large portion of the east and north bunds would have been entirely washed away level with the roadway.

Concluding, I beg to state that I do not consider that any portion of the tank bund is safe during any ordinary monsoon with its insufficient sectional area and faulty construction.

I consider it is my duty to give a short account when the breach occurred and what steps were taken to stop it. On the morning of the 21st May at about 8 A.M. I was casually informed by the Overseer in charge of the Famine Relief Work at the Veysurpaudy Magazine (which work I was inspecting) that the Veysurpaudy tank had breached on the 18th May, considering the tank was under my charge. I went at once to the breach; no Revenue Officer had reported the case to any Department Public Works Officer, and the villagers who had lands under the tank were then trying to stop the breach; every credit I consider must be given them, although at such a late time they were taking the doors of their houses to assist in forming a ring bund to assist them. I once sent to the fort for a large number of old fortification doors and put on what labor could be obtained. The breach was closed within three hours from the time I arrived at the breach. It was not until a day or two after the breach was closed that official notice reached me that the tank had breached, and a very absurd statement was made that the Perambore tank was in danger owing to the breaching of the Veysurpaudy tank. The Perambore tank is on a much higher level.

Had any of the villagers or Revenue officials reported the breaching of the tank either to the District Engineer (yourself) or to me, I would have at once done my best to have saved the tank both by stopping the breach and strengthening the east and north bunds.

No. 132 I.

No. 72-A. *Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*

I AM of opinion that the section of the Veysurpaudy tank bund as shown in the tracing transmitted with the letter No. 2,501 of the 3rd instant, from the District Engineer, Presidency, was very well suited to the circumstances, the tank being a very shallow one, except that if the lowest course of the revetment was laid as indicated its construction was faulty; it should have had foundations 2 or 2½ feet below the surface of the flat slope inside the bund.

CAMP AT COLLEGAL,
11th August 1877.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To the Joint Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch.

No. 73. ORDER THEREON, 24th August 1877, No. 248 I.

Revenue.

COMMUNICATED to the Revenue Department with reference to G.O., No. 2,251, 9th July 1877.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

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

Exd. A. Grubert.

20 Spare Copies

Revenue Department

No 3907

PUBLIC WORKS

Dated August 1877

5 September

Pycarapandy Tank, Tinnevelly District.
Report on the breach in the
Canal to the Revenue Department.

8-1-9-Mw 2699

AUGUST

Nos. 7278

K 179

Revenue Department

No 4

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 29th August 1877

Read the following

Cands GP Nos 9305

No 225

From

R. J. Melville Esqr.

Actg Collector of Madras

To,

C. A. Gallwey Esqr,

Actg Secretary to the Board of Revenue

Sir, I have the honor to submit the report called for in the Board's Proceedings No 10157, dated 18th July last.

2. The breach of the Veyasarpade Tank occurred on the night of the 18th May last owing to the very heavy rainfall of the preceding three days. Though the Conservancy of the Madras Tanks is under the Control of the Deputy Collector, all repairs and improvements to the Tank bund, Calingulas, and Sluices are invariably carried out by the District Engineer on

on estimates prepared by that officer and countersigned by the Collector. The Deputy Collector accordingly reported the occurrence of the breach to the District Engineer on the 19th May, the day after its occurrence and requested that steps might be taken to have the breach closed. Meantime endeavours were made under the direction of the Conicopillay of the Perambore division to temporarily close the breach. The villagers were actively engaged in closing the breach when the overseer of the Department of Public Works arrived on the morning of the 21st and the breach was closed on that date.

3. In answer to the queries contained in para 2 of Government Order, No 2c 5th dated 9th July 1877, recorded in the Board's Proceedings under reply, the District Engineer states that there are traces of serious attempts to

revetment in many places, and for great lengths, but no signs of any erosion adjacent to the breach on either side, that the depth of water on the crest of the Calingula was 1·18 feet, that there is nothing to show that the bund at the breach had been worn down by being used as a pathway, and that there is nothing on either side of the breach to show the cause thereof.

4. The cause of the breach is attributed by the District Engineer to the faulty construction of the Tank bund. On this point, I beg to forward, in original, a letter received from that officer.

5. In reply to para 3 of the Government order, I beg to state that the tank bund is seemingly in good condition at present.

6. The enclosures received with the Board's Proceedings under reply are returned.

I have &c
(Signed) R. J. Melville
Ag Collector of Madras

Madras Collector's Office
9th August 1877.

For

(Enclosure)

Fort St George
31st July 1877.

No 147

To,

The District Engineer

Presidency

Sir,

In reply to Your No 2309 of the 24th Instant, I most respectfully beg to inform You that I met the Tahsildar of Madras as ordered and I pointed out to that Officer what I considered the defective state of the Vayasarpaudy Tank Bund.

2. The following are my answers to questions a, b, c & d to the best of my judgement and observations of the state of the Tank when it was breached.

Reply to question a. There are traces of serious erosions below revetment in many places and for great lengths; but no sign of any erosion adjacent to the breach on either side.

Reply to question b. The depth of water on crest of Calingulah was 1.18 feet.

Reply

Reply to question c. The breach occurred just on the west side of the ramp that is used for allowing cattle to pass over the bund, please see rough sketch.



The bund on each side of breach and top of ramp, is in good order, and there is nothing to show that the bund at the breach had been worn down by being used as a path way.

Reply to question d. The causes of the Tank breaching are as follows.

1st The faulty construction of the Tank Bund; there is little or no foundation to the revetment, no puddle wall in rear of the revetment, the revetment is built nearly perpendicular instead of having a slope of 1/4 or 1/2 to 1.

The

The sectional area of the bund is very inade-
-quate. Considering the bad nature of the soil
it is made with, the soil is of a salty and
spungy nature. Cross sections of breach is
forwarded.

I beg to point out that I consider the
ramp on the inner side of the bund was one
of the chief causes of Tank breaching in that
particular place, as the ramp acted as a groyne
during the time the high westerly winds prevailed.

If the Tank had not breached where
it did a very large portion of the east and
north bunds would have been entirely washed
away level with the road way.

Concluding I beg to state that I do not
consider that any portions of the Tank bund
is safe during any ordinary monsoon with its
insufficient sectional area and faulty construction.

I consider it is my duty to give a short
account when the breach occurred and
what

what steps were taken to stop it. On the
morning of the 21st May at about 8 A.M. I
was casually informed by the Overseer
in charge of the Famine Relief Work
at the Veyasurpandy Magazine (which work
I was inspecting) that the Veyasurpandy
Tank had breached on the 18th May -
Considering the Tank was under my charge.
I went at once to the breach, no revenue
Officer had reported the case to any P.W.D.
Officer, and the villagers who had lands
under the Tank were then trying to stop the
breach, every credit I consider must be
given them, although at such a late time,
they were taking the doors of their houses
to assist in forming a ring bund, to assist them
I once sent to the Front for a large number
of old Fortification doors and put on
what

what labor could be obtained. The breach was closed within three hours from the time I arrived at the breach - It was not until a day or two after the breach was closed that official notice reached me that the Tank had breached and a very absurd statement was made that the Perambore Tank was in danger owing to the breaching of the Veyasurpaudy Tank. The Perambore Tank is on a much higher level.

Had any of the Villagers or Revenue Officials reported the breaching of the Tank either to the District Engineer (personally) or to me, I would have at once done my best to have saved the tank both by stopping the breach and strengthening the East and North bunds.

I beg to remain Sir
(Signed) Simm Supt. & P.W.D.
In charge of Northern Circuit

(True Copy)
(Signed) Robt. Thompson Major R.E.

Submitted to Government with reference to Government Order, dated 9th July 1877 No 2261.

2. The District Engineer has not given any opinion - he simply forwards the report of the Supervisor Simm - From that report it is clear that the breach was due to the faulty construction of the bund - there is nothing to show that the bund was worn away at the spot as suggested by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation - indeed the existence of a Pump close by would seem to show that such a state of affairs was improbable. The breach is said to have been reported to the District Engineer on the 19th but the Supervisor only casually heard of it on the 21st. In the meantime the villagers did

did their best to stop the breach, but had
Mr Pinnie received intimation earlier
the damage would have been less. It is
not explained why no action was taken by
the District Engineer when the breach
was reported to him, but he probably assumed
that the instructions laid down in Standing
Order No 53. had been attended to and inform-
tion given to the nearest P. W. Subordinate.

The Collector will report why this was
not done.

(True Copies & Extract)

J Stirrett
Ag Sub Secretary

To

The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
with original enclosure returned

10

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 3854 & 3947

From Bengal & P.W.D.

Dated 29 & 24 August 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

Rec'd 11-9-77 No. 2699.

No 178

Please papers contain the reports called for in G.O. 9 July 1877 No 2261.

Though the District Engineer has not expressed any opinion of his own upon the questions put it may be assumed that he endorses that of his subordinate the Overseer.

In his letter printed in Pro: P.W.D. 24 Aug 1877 No 245 I Major Thompson makes no allusion to the direct report said to have been made to him by the Deputy Collector on the occurrence of the

breach.

On the whole it would seem that nothing could have been done to prevent the breach

Please see former memo for orders as to the points for disposal

Chief

Lt Special Harris attaches to any Dept.

The accident is attributed to general faulty construction of the bund

The claim for compensation must I think be denied

I think that the Presidency Engr. should be informed that while the general minor Conservancy is entrusted to the Revenue Dept the pro-

-per maintenance as to guards repairs &c lies with the D. Dept

Dy Engr

Executive Engr

No 3852 & 3907

FOR ORDERS.

Report on the
Breach in the Vizagapatam
Trunk, Presidency &c

Revenue Department

No. 2699.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

under date the 11 September 1877

Read the following papers.

From Board of Revenue

Subj. Report from Coll. Agent
the circumstances attending the breach
in the Vizagapatam Trunk Bund and
requesting that officer be reported further
on the subject.

(M. E. 29 Aug. 1877. No. 4022)

Copy to the Public Dept. reporting
the breach in the Vizagapatam Trunk,
Presidency district.

(M. E. 24 Oct. 1877. No. 3487)

It appears that no
special blame attaches to any
Department. The accident is attributable to the general faulty
construction of the bund, and the
extraordinary fall of rain
in May.

Orders

2 Orders will issue to the Department Public Works to the District Engineer to pay special attention to the banks. Though the general minor conservancy is entrusted to the Revenue Department measures for stability and repair lie with the Dept. Public Works.

G.O. 24. July 1870 Pr. III

3 The claim for compensation put forward by certain Residents of Veyasupady in their application of the 28th May last cannot be complied with.

9/11-9-71 with G.L. Cy. G. Pr. Pr. 29-9-71 w. Corr.
21 p.c. R/ 29-9-71
14 p.c. (G 29-9-1) with 12 P. Cy. in G. Pub. W. D.