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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	4002 REV	Press.
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Dated	17.7.1877.	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

29th June 1877, No. 124 I.

Irrigation.

Read the following paper:—

No. 136. Endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Fort St. George, 26th June 1877, No. 70 I.

From Major J. O. HASTED, R.E., Superintendent Engineer for Irrigation, Public Works Department, dated Camp, Bezwadah, 16th June 1877, No. 44.

With reference to G.O., No. 63 I, dated 7th June 1877, and in continuation of my No. 30, dated 29th ultimo, I have the honor to report that I have personally examined the whole of the Commamur Canal, and am of opinion that Lieutenant Boddy's rough estimate of the expenditure required to repair the damage done by the storm to the canal and subsidiary works will not prove to be much in excess of the amount of detailed estimates now being prepared.

2. I have little doubt but that the breaches were caused by the water discharged by the drainages after a sudden and very unusually heavy fall of rain, backing up against the canal banks and being driven against them by the hurricane. In a few places only can the water have topped the banks, but a great length of bank is left with a section like that shown in the margin, proving the action of the waves. Had the works provided for in the completion estimates been constructed, I do not think there would have been any breaches, though with the water 2 feet above the ground level and a hurricane blowing directly on the bank, breaches must occur if the storm continues for a considerable time, by the waves eating through the bank.

3. Many of the breaches are already closed up to full canal supply level, and I believe that all will be closed and the banks where necessary raised to proper level within a week from this time, as a large body of men are at work. I have arranged to do such work only as is necessary to open the canal for irrigation and navigation, supplying the place of the broken masonry works by temporary sluices, and I trust that water will be sent down the canal by the end of this month, so that the irrigation will not suffer.

4. Frequent thunderstorms bringing down the cross drainages from time to time have interfered greatly with the work and made it necessary to close the breaches the best way we can. For the three days I was at Santaravoor, the Alleru and Emileru were in fresh, and the Nallamudda came down also, so that the canal was half full in spite of all the escapes being open, and the water was in places running through the breaches. I hope the water will fall sufficiently to enable us to take out any silt that may have been washed in shortly; every effort will be made by Lieutenant Boddy to

get the work done so that there may be no hinderance to the irrigation, but he is much hampered by sickness among the subordinates. Supervisor Serjeant Chapman has had to be moved to Masulipatam under a medical certificate, Overseer Serjeant Green was carried in to Guntoor sick on the 14th, and Sub-Overseer Maun Sing is hardly able to move, and must go away on leave shortly.

5. I am sorry to say I see no chance of getting on with the new outlet works at present: materials cannot, in the present state of the country, be carted down, and the very violent westerly wind now blowing shows that the monsoon is not far off. I think of taking materials down by water after the canals re-open and building some of the outlets while the water is in the canal.

6. The extension of the Commamur Canal—now being carried out as a relief work—has been much hindered by the storm, and the cost of the work will be considerably enhanced, as every pit has now to be baled out. The rates being paid however are still below the East Cost canal rates, and I believe the work will be carried on satisfactorily. The lock has been baled out again, and the concrete work was about half completed when I left; but we must wait till the canal is re-opened before we can get down the sill stones.

7. I have received a report of a number of tanks having breached in 4th Division, generally from the banks being washed away in parts. Supervisor Serjeant Taylor is repairing there, but I hear of heavy rain having fallen in the division, and there is therefore some difficulty in carrying out the work at present.

8. I may mention that the river came down in fresh on the 14th instant, water rising 5 feet above the anicut. In consequence the cross bund below the head sluices, Eastern Delta, was carried away in spite of every effort made to preserve it, and the canal clearance was brought to a premature close. The cross bund in Western Delta Main Canal has hitherto stood, and I hope may be maintained till the clearance is completed.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

It will be seen that the Superintendent Engineer, after a personal inspection, considers that the repair of damage caused to the Commamur Canal by the cyclone of May is likely to cost as much as the rough estimate of Rupees 20,000. It is satisfactory to find that there is every probability of the canal being sufficiently repaired by the end of this month to admit of irrigation as usual.

2. The materials for inlets and outlets can be sent down the canal by boat in due course, and many of these works can be constructed without difficulty while the canal is in use.

3. The sickness among members of the Executive Establishment is particularly to be regretted at a time when it is extremely difficult, if not impracticable, to supply their places by transfer from other districts. The undersigned recommends that the Superintendent Engineer be authorized to employ substitutes so far as may be practicable, reporting the arrangements made for confirmation.

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

No. 137.

ORDER THEREON, 29th June 1877, No. 124 I.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council regrets to find that the damage sustained by the Commamur Canal during the storm of May last was as extensive as was at first reported, and every exertion should be used to hasten the provision of the cross drainage works, which are essential to the prevention of similar damage in the future.

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4002

Revenue Department
No 3289
IRRIGATION.

Gobt. of 1877 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

✓
The DISTRICT ENGINEER,
KISTNA,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated June 29th.

Issued

Recd.

16 July.

Encl.

G. O., 29th June 1877, No. 124 I.

JUNE.

Nos. 136-137.

No 4002
Comm'd to the
Board of Revenue

17 July/77

Commander Canal, Kistna District.
Passing orders on further report of the
damages caused by the storm of May 1877
to the—

1877. 12/7 Received 16-7-77.