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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	297	Press.
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Dated	21.1.1879	197-

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297/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

3rd January 1879, No. 3 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read the following paper:—

No. 3. From T. D. HARRIS, Esq., Executive Engineer, Ganjam Division, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Berhampore, 15th December 1878, No. 246.

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith copy of my letter to the Superintending Engineer, First Circle, on the subject of the late heavy rains and floods in Chicacole and Parla Kimedi Sub-Divisions.

From T. D. HARRIS, Esq., Executive Engineer, Ganjam Division, to the Acting Superintending Engineer, First Circle, dated Berhampore, 15th December 1878, No. 245.

IN continuation of my telegram dated 10th December 1878, I have the honor to submit herewith a detailed report of the late heavy rains and the consequent damages as far as can be ascertained for the present; the weather in the day was also very severe. My barometer fell from 29.90° to 29.50° on the 7th. I have never known the like before in the month of December.

2. The following tables will show the rain registered at different places and readings gauged at the Buttisripuram anicut in the Kimedi Estate:—

Places.	5th December 1878.	6th December 1878.	7th December 1878.	8th December 1878.	9th December 1878.	10th December 1878.	Total 5th to 10th December 1878.	Remarks.
Berhampore	0.80	0.40	2.35	1.25	0.60	0.15	5.50	Total in six days.
Chicacole	1.21	4.40	13.40	7.55	4.41	..	30.97	31.29 subsequently reported mo.
Kimedi	0.40	0.65	6.0	3.05	5.38	0.24	16.67	By gauge at Kimedi Office.

Readings gauged at Battisripuram anicut in Kimedi Estate.

Month and Date.	Above Anicut.			Below Anicut.			Below Head Sluice.			Remarks.
	6 A. M.	12 NOON.	6 P. M.	6 A. M.	12 NOON.	6 P. M.	6 A. M.	12 NOON.	6 P. M.	
1st December 1878 ..	6.4	6.4	6.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	6.0	6.0	6.0	
2nd do. ..	6.4	6.3	6.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	6.0	5.11	5.11	
3rd do. ..	6.3	6.3	6.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	5.11	5.11	5.11	
4th do. ..	6.4	6.3	6.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	6.0	5.11	5.11	
5th do. ..	6.4	6.4	6.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	6.0	6.0	6.0	
6th do. ..	8.0	10.0	12.0	3.10	5.10	6.2	7.0	7.11	8.9	
7th do. ..	12.0	12.0	12.0	6.2	6.2	6.2	8.9	8.9	8.9	
8th do. ..	12.0	12.0	12.0	6.2	6.2	6.2	9.0	9.0	9.0	

3. You will observe that there has been a rain-fall of 31.29 inches in Chicacole from 4th to 9th December 1878. This is really extraordinary and was never heard of before; in fact the rainfall of these five days is only a very little less than a fair average year's supply, which is only 45 to 47 inches. The minimum of Ganjam is 34 inches, and maximum below the ghats 74 inches.

1878 Dec 15. 1878 Dec 15. 1878 Dec 15.

4. The rainfall at Kimedi is 16.57 inches from 5th to 10th, but not so heavy as at Chicacole.
5. The rainfall at Chicacole in the year 1876, which swept away the bridge, was only 13 inches, which is much less than half of the present rainfall.
6. On the 9th December 1878 the Deputy Collector communicated to me a telegram from the Tahsildar of Chicacole, which was to the following effect:—"Longodea flooded 8th morning; still rising; town in water except high ground; no loss of life; property damaged."
7. Directly this reached me I thought that the Assistant Engineer in charge of Chicacole Sub-Division and Mr. Cormac, who was by me ordered to relieve Mr. Assistant Engineer Atkinson, being located in Patha Chicacole were cut off all communication by a nulla between Patha Chicacole and Chicacole which discharges itself into Longodea, and hence they could not telegraph to me of the floods.
8. I then at once telegraphed to the Telegraph Master to ascertain whether floods were serious and whether roads are passable, and to which he replied as follows:—
"Repetition 1876. More rain. Roads impassable."
9. On the evening of the same day I received a telegram from Mr. Supervisor Cormac to the following effect:—"Five days rain fell 27 inches; rain continuous; floods subsiding; all roads impassable."
- I immediately telegraphed to him to report all damages done by the floods and restore traffic and adopt measures to get the mails crossed immediately. On the 10th Mr. Cormac replied as follows:—
"Roads still submerged, all breached estimate 300 thatched 20 tiled houses destroyed, Chicacole. No communication with villages yet." I also give for your information copies of subsequent telegrams received from him.
- On the 11th "roads impassable, bands, tappal, passes to-day."
- On the 12th "all roads impassable, wheeled traffic for next ten days, serious losses property. Reaped paddy swept off; one-third crop lost. Our works, damages still unknown; several tanks breached; wrote yesterday."
10. The greatest rainfall at Chicacole appears to have taken place from 6 p.m. on Saturday and 7 a.m. on Sunday, during that time the river appears to have risen to about 4 feet above the level of the springings of the arches of the Chicacole bridge which is equal to 16 feet, flooding nearly three-fourths of the town; the building formerly occupied by the Telegraph Department, which is located on the bank of the river, was also flooded by 2 feet.
11. The bridge over Longodea river stands as before and of course could not suffer further damage. I must here remark that had not the bridge been wrecked in 1876 which carried away almost all the surplus water, the damage would apparently have been much more severe than it has been.
12. The road from Chicacole to Chingapatnam is impassable for mail, and trunk and Pakonda roads in parts under water. The wires put across the wreck of the bridge for crossing the mails also have been swept away.
13. On the 11th I received the following telegrams from Mr. Jennings, the Assistant Engineer, in charge, of Kimedi Estate:—
"Great floods; roads and tanks breached. Rungasagaram in great danger; banks slipped; all villagers at work; hope to save it; rain from 5th 16.50 inches." I have at once telegraphed to him to save Rungasagaram, a very large tank, from all danger.
14. I herein append the damages done to the works in the Kimedi Estate.
Garabanda and Uppalada road breached in six places; in one a breadth of about 30 feet is washed away, and water 3 feet deep is rushing through; the waterway of the two bridges near the factory being insufficient, the road on each side of each bridge has also been washed away, and the Manager of the Factory appears to have been obliged to quit the house for fear of its being washed away.
- Kimedi and Kanchilingy Road* breached in several places; arches of the tunnels have also been seriously cracked through the crown.
- Pallepuram road* breached in many places; road has also been overtopped by 3 feet water.
- Mechimurra tank* breached, but temporarily repaired by the villagers; no serious damage; eulungalah water over it about 4 feet.
- Pennally road* washed away for about two hundred yards in 8th mile; one-fourth of the third mile under water and about 1 foot of water rushing over it to-day.
- Rungasagaram tank* breached close to bridge under the road and water is pouring all over the field.
- Dakshy tank* breached in several places, temporarily repaired by the villagers; no serious damage.

Brundarana Sagaram and the channel feeding the tank both breached near Singapuram to a length of twelve yards, and water escaping into the river.

Kristnasagaram reported to be in danger; but measures have been taken to open sluices.

15. You will observe from the rain report appended over leaf that there has not been heavy rains in Berhampore and Gumsar taluks, and the crops have not been damaged in these taluks nor further north through Orissa.

16. I have not received complete reports of all the damages done to our works in Chicacole and Kimedi Sub-Divisions; but I am this day leaving this for Chicacole and will make a personal and thorough investigation of all the damages done by the recent heavy rains and floods and will send you a more complete and detailed report. I, however, do not apprehend very much loss, the whole of north Ganjam is safe where I am myself.

17. I have also to inform you that I directed Mr. Supervisor Cormac to adopt prompt measures for putting the trunk road in order, so there may be no difficulty for troops expected to arrive at Chicacole by the 22nd instant. There is only the first three or two and a half miles out of Chicacole that can impede progress, but I will be there myself; there is no fear of impediments to troops.

No. 4.

ORDER THEREON, 3rd January 1879, No. 3 W.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, First Circle.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies

Revenue 1879 Sept
No 538

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

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Govt. of (1879) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
FIRST CIRCLE,
Sec., Sec., Sec.

Dated January 3rd.

Item 1.

Est.

20

Est.

G. O., 3rd January 1879, No. 3 W.

JANUARY.

No. 3-4.

Floods in Chittoor and Kinnaird Sub-Div.
sion, Coimbatore District.—Reports of the
recorded.

No. 297
Comms. to the
Board of Revenue

21 Jan 1879

No. 297

16 Feb 1879 Board of Revenue Sec. 5 Jan 7