Archives 1—10,006—6-10-76.

(1) Number of pages 6

(2) Date of repair 5-6-86

(3) Initials of the Referencer Lm

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	369	Press. / Mis.
Dated	28.1.1879	—197—.

89

Not to be folded or roughly handled

369
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

6th January 1879, No. 13 W.

General.
Establishment.

Read the following papers:—

No. 36. Proceedings of the Government of Madras in the Revenue Department, dated 23rd December 1878, No. 2,061.

Endorsement of the Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue (Famine) Department, dated Fort St. George, 21st December 1878, No. 5,606.

From H. ST. A. GOODRICH, Esq., Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue (Famine) Department, dated 13th December 1878, No. 1,849.

I HAVE the honor to submit the enclosed extract for the information of Government in continuation of my telegrams of 10th, 12th, and this day.

2. I have recalled my camp from the ghats and leave to-night for the valley of the Gostanadi, where I apprehend that much damage has resulted from the floods.

3. Mr. Lee-Warner will do all that can be done in his division, and I trust that a grant may be made by the Committee in charge of the Mansion House Relief Fund. The villages in the valley of the Sharada river are those in which the loss of cattle and household property has been greatest.

4. I ordered Range Officers, on the 9th, to press on with all possible vigor the work of restoring communications, submitting emergent estimates; and I advised Colonel Leggatt to delay, by ten days, the march of his Regiment, the VII. The latter measure has been approved, and much discomfort and probable ill-health will be avoided.

5. The estimate of loss to crop is the best that I can make after careful consideration of the taluk reports which have reached me. The Palkonda valley will be visited by me at once if a favorable report does not reach me to-morrow. The water is running off rapidly, and I make no doubt that the great extent of comparatively high land which has this year been planted with paddy will furnish a set-off in large proportion against the loss on the lowest levels.

6. The total cessation of communication with Ankapalli was not at first believed to indicate any calamity to the town, but to be the effect of the fall of a bridge crossing a deep unfordable stream leading to the Ava which has often caused stoppage of the mails before. The Deputy Tahsildar ought to have sent in an express sooner. No post arrived in Vizagapatam from the south between the 7th and 13th instant, but this occasioned little apprehension as it was believed that the delay was occasioned by interruption in Godavari and Kistna, and the Post Office instead of giving a daily service keep the runners until a through mail comes in so that there is nothing to excite alarm in the non-receipt of a mail for several days.

7. In the Government taluqs most of the irrigation is by river channels and the water will run off rapidly. Most of the best tanks in Golgonda taluk have

burst, and a large number in Viravilli and Srungavarapucota. Repairs to the roads occupy my attention as the work most immediately necessary.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

EXTRACT from a demi-official letter from the Principal Assistant Collector, dated 12th December 1878.

* * * *

All the paddy crop is ruined. In many parts the bearers had to wade a foot deep feeling for the roadway with their sticks. The flood had been some ten feet above the road. All trees are down along the road-sides. Sugar-cane is the only crop which has not been smashed up. At Ankapalli the first sight was the chattram, which is flat on the ground. Then came the distant-looking town itself, three-quarters of it in ruins, and the streets full of rubbish and filth. and a pestilential stink all over the place. The main road is cut to bits beyond the Sub-Magistrate's Cutcherry as far as the great bridge which is standing intact; but cut off by breaches in the road at each end of it. If the road had not breached in so many places at the lower part of the town, the whole place would have been swept away. Gavarapetah is entirely in ruins, and the ryots have lost their bullocks and bandies. I shall have to recommend the immediate suspension of the municipality, as I do not see how the taxes are to be collected merely to pay an establishment out of all proportions to the work done. The sight is altogether a very sad one. The Kristamraz channel seems entirely silted up. The loss of life is not known yet. It is said that about twenty-five were drowned in this town alone; and there are dead cattle, and awful stenches all along the road from the beginning of the limits of Ankapalli Ava. Telegraphic communication on a single line will be restored to-morrow it is hoped. Most of the posts are down between Aganampudi and the big bridge (Ankapalli). Telegraph Superintendent is here. *In* the Cutcherry of the Sub-Magistrate the water stood fully a yard deep and got at some of the records and some of the registration books. There is unfortunately no sun to put them out to dry. What is immediately wanted is restoration of the communication over the bridge on the main road and repair of the breaches at the end of the town near the school. Brickwell will see to this when he comes out. I have written to G. L. Narsing Row to advise him to send out Mr. Jones, armed with full authority to act. What astonishes me most is the absence of beggars in the streets; but there is much silent misery and people are sleeping where they can find a dry place. If there is any of that Mansion House money left it would be a good thing to get a slice of it. In Viravilli they say here that the villagers along the bank of the river have suffered most. Fakeer Sahibpeta is quite destroyed it is believed; but there have been no reports sent in from the villages. It is true that two Constables were found drowned. They belonged to Aganampudi Station and were coming in to get their pay, when the water rose on the road.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. ST. A. GOODRICH,
Acting Collector and Magistrate.

COPY of a letter from the Telegraph Master, Vizagapatam, dated 13th December, communicating a telegram from the Principal Assistant Collector.

THE following has just been received by telegraph from the Superintendent's camp, 17th inst.:—

To Collector. From Principal Assistant.

"Water falling rapidly. Work of cleaning town and burying dead bodies progressing. Small outbreak of cholera in one neighboring village. Will write daily."

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue Department.

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Addl. Secy. to Government.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue and to the Public Works Department; also to the Committee in charge of the Mansion House Relief Fund with reference to paragraph 3.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Ag. Chief Secy. to Government.

No. 36-A. Endorsement of the Additional Secretary to Government, in the Revenue Department, dated 31st December 1878.

From H. ST. A. GOODRICH, Esq., Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ankapalli, 18th December 1878, extra No. 2.

I HAVE the honor to continue the subject of my letter of 15th instant.

2. I saw what I could around Vizianagaram and in the valley of the Gostanadi. The great tanks at Ambativalasa and Nelivada burst and carried the Valagada tank with them, great damage from silt but not much to cattle. The breaches in the Chipurupilli road are being roughly repaired by a gang under the Dewan (as the Government are aware we have no Department Public Works establishment even for ordinary occasions which this fortunately is not). The road to the north is carried away for two miles between Bhogapuram and Nathavalsa; near Chilkapalem it is quite impassable. I have sent Mr. Macbean to endeavor to make crossing places for carts in time for the march of the 7th Regiment, or, if that is impossible, to let me know in time that I may send them by the old coast track—a very bad one for wheeled traffic.

3. In the valley of the Bimlipatam river, damage is confined to the rich low-lying lands. The Annamrazpeta, Boni, Potnuru, and most of the smaller tanks burst. The river at Chittevalsa bridge has behaved as might have been expected. The old bridge has been left for more than two years, projecting into the stream like a groyne and encouraging the deepening of the stream on the side of the fallen abutment: it has now cut a deep channel on the hither or right bank of the old bed, and the plans for the reconstruction of the bridge must be reconsidered.

4. The Narava river, which disembogues at Vizagapatam and drains the district known as Peddagudi Thana, swollen by the bursting of the tanks between Pendur and Subbavaram, carried away a mile of the trunk road, damaged many culverts at other points, and destroyed the villages of Pulampaslapalayam and Gopalapatnam near Narava carrying nearly all their cattle out to sea. Venkatapuram was less damaged; much crop destroyed on lower levels.

5. The Ankapalli plain presents a melancholy spectacle. The rice crop is almost a total loss over this the most fertile tract in the district, 987 houses out of 1,978 houses in the town taxed to the Municipal Funds, 149 out of 1,328 taxed cattle are destroyed, about as many more cattle belonging to the ryots were drowned. The bridge is safe as far as can be seen though very deep holes have been scoured out in rear of the abutments. The road is destroyed in many places; the Godairi anicut is safe. The great bridge near Chodavaram is totally destroyed. Mr. Lee-Warner has visited Chodavaram; about thirty lives were lost in three river side villages, but no communication had been held with Waddadi or with Davarapilli, and the reports which have been ordered must be awaited. Mr. Lee-Warner swam an elephant across the river and saw what could be seen near Chodavaram.

6. It will be impossible to collect the lists of cattle lost, houses carried away or beaten down and human beings drowned for at least a week.

7. The inspection of the Ankapalli and Chodavaram villages I have taken into my own hands and have sent Mr. Lee-Warner on to Sarvasiddhi giving an extra Assistant for general duty to each of the Tahsildars of Golgonda and Sarvasiddhi.

8. The loss of life in Munagapaka is reported slight, nor is any great loss of life reported as yet in any village below Ankapalli. Sundlingapalem and Kumarapalam were rescued by the Ganaparti Munsif and by one Venkataramanayya as shall be further reported on.

9. At Pendur Mallavaram on the Boddam which disembogues at Tuni, the inundation caused the loss of 52 lives, and much cattle reached the sea at Tuni as well as at Wattada.

10. The lists shall be collected with as little delay as circumstances permit, and Mr. Narsing Row, who has not as yet even sent out an Agent, and who has not permitted the cutting of the rotting crops, shall be urged to perform some part of his

duty. Relief is being now given in Ankapalli to a number of infirm perso
would otherwise starve, from funds privately subscribed here.

11. The Mansion House money may most usefully be applied by grantin
poorer families who are houseless, from Rupees 5 to Rupees 2 each, to ass
to rebuild.

Whether from any source it will be wise to make grants to replace lo
shall be further considered before I write again.

12. The proprietor told Mr. Lee-Warner before the latter left for A
on the 11th that he would come out as soon as possible; he has put off his
from day to day since. I enclose a copy of my last letter from him in answ
letter from me asking him to serve on the local committee for the distribution
Mansion House grants.

13. Market fairly supplied, but price of rice 5½ seers per Rupee.

From G. L. NARSING ROW, Esq., to H. St. A. GOODRICH, Esq., Acting Collec
Vizagapatam, dated Vizagapatam, 17th December 1878.

YOUR favor of the 16th instant just to hand while I am engaged preparing to proc
Ankapalli to relieve the sufferers there and to reset up the town.

2. Nothing is more pleasant and gratifying to me than to take a part in a
committee for the distribution of the Mansion House Relief Fund money in which my
people will have a greater share for they are the greater sufferers. But I am sorry my pr
state of health does not admit of my being there before Friday morning.

3. I fear the present Municipal Committee, as it is, cannot come to the assistance o
town of Ankapalli as desirable. Yet, it being my own place, I shall not be tardy in h
heart and hand.

F No. 10,694.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue Department in continuation of F. Nos. 1
and 10,624.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
25th December 1878.

(Signed) G. STOKES,
for Addl. Secy. to Govern

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Ag. Chief Secy. to Govern

No. 37.

ORDER THEREON, 6th January 1879, No. 13 W.

ORDERED that the following telegram be sent to the Superintending Eng
First Circle:—

"Collector Vizagapatam reports disastrous floods Ambativalasa, Nelivada, A
palli. Public Works Establishment believed not adequate. Make what arrange
necessary for strengthening it by posting subordinates reporting action taken."

(True Extract.)

E. G. Bond Colonel, R
Secretary to Govt., P.W.

To the Superintending Engineer, First Circle.
" Revenue Department.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
Exd. E. G. Shunker.
20 Spare Copies

367/3

Revenue 1879 Sept
No 761.

Mis

GENERAL
DETAILED STATEMENT

Cobh, 21st [illegible] 1870

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The COMMISSIONERS OF
FIRST FUND

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith a Detailed Statement of the Expenditure on account of Public Works in this District during the Quarter ended 31st December 1870.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient
humble Servant,
[illegible]
Overseer.

No. 369

No. 369

Communicated to the Board of Revenue

28 January 1879

16 Feb. 1871 Board of Revenue