

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

19th February 1879, No. 422.

Read the following paper :—

No. 382. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd February 1879, No. 275.

Read the following letter from H. Sr. A. GOODRICH, Esq., Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, to J. STURROCK, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Palkonda, 16th January 1879, No. 59 :—

I HAVE the honor to report, for the information of the Board, the results of the cyclone of the 6th, 7th, and 8th December last as far as regards this district.

* *Quatre Lours and Coromandel.*

November 1870.

Do. 1876.

May 1877.

November 1878.

December 1878.

2. The logs of the two* ships which were wrecked and of the two coasting steamers which narrowly escaped shipwreck have been before the Government. The storm was a cyclone, and the experience of the last few years would certainly forbid my describing it as an unusual occurrence.

3. The storm was preceded by the usual warnings, but the notice given was long. On and after 3rd December the indications of the imminence of a destructive tempest were unmistakeable.

4. The vortex of the cyclone appears to have travelled from near the northernmost mouth of the Kistna to a point a few miles north of Pentakota; it was accompanied by a deluge of rain. About thirty inches fell along the sea-board throughout the district and about twelve inches along the foot of the ghauts, the intermediate tracts receiving a quantity between these extremes proportionate to their propinquity to the coast or the mountains respectively.

5. Before the end of November very copious and well-distributed monsoons, registering an average of over fifty-one inches of rain at the fifteen registering stations, had been experienced. The rice crop on the ground had been in larger measure than common fed by falling rain, and tanks were almost all full when this storm poured its floods into them. Most of the tanks, including nearly all the largest works, burst their banks under the strain.

The severe distress occasioned by the high prices of the last two years had rendered the poorest, who form the great mass of the community, unable to incur even the pettiest expenses, and the houses of the people were, for want of repairs, in a very unusual degree ready to fall.

6. The north of the district is watered by a fine river—the Nagavalli. The inundation at Chicacole was nearly as high as that of 1876, but on its branches, which water Salur, Bobbili, Parvatipur, Rayaghada, and Palkonda, the rainfall was far less than on the coast, and neither the river nor its tributaries much overtopped their banks above Palkonda. The heavy rain near Palkonda and below that town, to which large land slips on many of the hills bear witness, flooded the rice lands with water flowing to the river and not from it; hence the more serious damage of silting was inflicted on a very small acreage.

7. In Vizianagram and Chipurupalle the great tanks were severely injured; thirty, including the five reservoirs at Budumur and Shermahomedpuram, were

breached on Anikitam Achayamma's (Mrs. A. V. Narsing Row) estate alone. The loss of sheep and goats owing to their exposure to wet was very great, but I am unable to satisfy myself of the correctness of the estimates given; 8,000 is the return for his taluk of the Vizianagram Deputy Tahsildar. In Vizianagram town over 300 houses fell, and as many more in the taluk. Only sixteen lives were lost in Palkonda, Bobbili, and Gajapatinagar, and no deaths have been reported as caused by the flood in the other taluks in my Senior Assistant's charge. Prompt relief to the houseless was given by His Highness the Maharaja and his Diwan in Vizianagram.

8. The Srungavarapucota, Bimlipatam, and Vizagapatam taluks suffered greatly in villages on the banks of streams, but the damage by silting was by no means great, and many of the tanks were temporarily repaired, ring-bunds being made in the breaches so as to retain a good deal of the water.

9. Speaking generally, I have never seen the land in better condition for growing a large crop of raggy, oil-seed, and indigo (the spring crops), nor better supplied with water at this period of the year. Water is springing at such high levels that many tanks, usually dry before the rice is reaped, are now full.

10. The rainfall has throughout the year been very heavy in the Galikonda Range, where the Sarada takes its rise, and the storm of the 7th December fell nowhere more heavily than here—in the valleys between Srungavarapucota and Madgole and on the hills between Narsapatam and Anakapalle. The river had risen to the level of its banks when (on the afternoon of the 7th) every one of its tributaries seem to have brought down a flood simultaneously, and the water attained a height of twelve feet above its ordinary level in a moderate fresh (of four feet) at Dibbapalem (see sketch-map enclosed). The fine bridge at Govada fell; that near Anakapalle was only saved by its approaches on either side being carried away, and the whole valley of the Sarada to the extent indicated by the blue shading in the sketch-map enclosed was inundated.

11. There perished in this flood 414 human lives, about 5,000 cattle, 25,000 sheep and goats, 9,000 houses, and a quantity, whose value is not to be certainly estimated, of implements and utensils of all kinds.

12. The crop over this flooded area was ripe and the farmers were just beginning to reap when this storm broke. I estimate the damage to the straw at three-fourths its value and to the grain at not more than one-third. The grain was fully formed, but not quite dead ripe, or the loss of crop would have been far more disastrous than it was.

13. With the patient endurance they never fail to show the peasants lived on trees and on house-tops for three days in many cases.

14. The only ship that had been lying in the Vizagapatam and Bimlipatam ports—the large French Steamer *Coromandel*—put to sea, but was driven on shore at Wattara, and another French Barque—the *Quatre Lœux*—at Rajayyapeta (see map); one of the British India Steam Navigation Company's Steamers barely escaped wreck at Pentakota, but succeeded in regaining Cocanada roads.

15. The Honorary Secretary of the Mansion House Relief Fund Committee placed promptly at my disposal a sum of Rupees 6,000, and His Grace the Governor added a donation of 500 Rupees. These charitable grants were distributed to the people most in want under the immediate direction of Mr. Lee-Warner and myself and were most gratefully received.

16. Mr. Lee-Warner is busily engaged upon the Jamabandi of the Government villages; with the exception of a small proportion of land whereon the crop has been buried beneath sand deposited by the flood, remission of revenue will not be necessary. The damaged tracts were promptly inspected while the extent of the damage was still manifest.

17. The damage to Government irrigation works is occupying the Range Officer's attention, and I expect estimates daily. The breaches in the district roads are receiving such attention as the trifling remainder of their funds left at the disposal

of the Local Fund Board permit. It is some slight consolation to reflect that the empty granaries need refilling and that this consideration may diminish consignments to the coast for export.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Statement.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Map.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. STURROCK,
Acting Secretary.

No. 383.

ORDER THEREON, 19th February 1879, No. 422.

Miscellaneous.

The Government regret to learn the extent of the disaster reported by the Collector which, however, might have been expected to have caused greater loss of life.

2. They await the submission of the Local Fund Budgets before considering what assistance can be rendered from Provincial Funds towards the repair of the roads.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. W. H. French.

Cyclone Type:
 R.D. No. 376.

3
 G.O. 422 of 19th February/79

Let Enquiry be made
 of Agent for the District
 R. is when might have
 been expected & how
 caused greater loss
 of life. Say that for
 await the submission
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 before considering
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 derived from Govt.
 funds towards the
 repairs of the roads.

The Government desire to learn the
 extent of the disaster reported
 by the Collector

To Mr. S. B. Rao of Mysore
 14th Feb 79
 2nd copy to Mr. S. B. Rao
 2nd copy to Mr. S. B. Rao
 P.W. Department

24th Feb 79

Original

Govt. of Mysore

REVENUE

THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Rs. Rs. Rs.

Dated February 1979

Dated 22nd

Head

Foot

G.O. 10th February 1979, No. 422

REVENUE

No. 662-883

Disaster caused by Cyclone in Mysore District
 Let Enquiry be made of Agent for the District
 R. is when might have been expected & how
 caused greater loss of life. Say that for
 await the submission of the L. F. Budgets
 before considering that as it can be derived
 from Govt. funds towards the repairs of the
 roads.



No. 59. Revenue Dept.
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 3rd February 1879

Read the following
From
J. H. St. A. Goodrich Esqre
Acting Collector
To
J. Sturrock Esquire
My Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras.
Sir,

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* Quatre
Lours +
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76. Nov
77. May
78. Nov
78. Dec

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Visagapatam Distl. } I have re
Collector's office 16 } (Signed) H. B. Goodrich
January 1879 Camp } Ag. Collector.
Tal Konda.

Submitted for the information
of Government.

(True Copy & Extract)

H. B. Goodrich
Secretary.

56

The Secretary to Government R.D.
with 2 enclosures to be ret'd.

noted
and Cd.

David Allen

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 O. C.
 1913

Indochina

...and the

7/29 No. 422

Submitting for review
a volume of Col. Bates' Re-
marks on the Collection of Mississippi
specimens the demand
is made in the District
this — in Dublin

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