

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. ST. 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 Leurs and Oromandel.*

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 ship-
wreck have been before the Government.
The storm was a cyclone, and the experi-
ence 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 northern-
most mouth of the Kistna to a point a few miles north of Pentakota; it was accom-
panied 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 ghats, 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 inun-
dation 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 Govda 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 *Coronade*—put to sea, but was driven on shore at Wattam, and another French Barque—the *Quatre Leves*—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 where 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.

Order

6th. of 1879: 30th

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Secy. Secy. Secy.

Dated February 19th.

Printed 22nd.

Post.

Est.

C.O., 10th February 1879, No. 122.

REVENUE.

Nov. 382-833.

Damage caused by Cyclone in Fitzgibbon District—Requesting to learn the extent of the losses reported by the Collector in connection with the — and awaiting the submission of the Local Board District before considering what assistance can be rendered from Government funds towards the repair of the roads.

Order in the Municipal Office 4 March 1879

At 392

The Collector appeared to inform under the provisions of existing Act—
-that the expenditure of Local Board expenses and interest. The will have been that that will not be maintenance of Govt. - the Local Board Budget was approved by Governor - amount on the 7th January 1879 - 1879 -
-reference to the same was the same -
-year is expected to close with a surplus under Board of 1879, as was probably sufficient for the purpose indicated -
(More Exact)

A. B. J. J.

C. B. J. J. J.

Office Revenue Department

Revenue 1879 22/14

21. 1988.

No. of 505 in 20/14

20/14 22/14

21. 392

on 19/14 22/14 22/14 22/14
representing to claim the extent
of the lettings reported by the
10/14 in connection with the
damage caused by cyclone
in 1879/14 22/14 22/14

With a list

1879-80

Communications to the Secretary

1879-80 22/14 22/14 22/14

Mis
ORDINARY, MS.

<i>Rice</i>	DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED <i>8 March/79</i>	
No. <i>920</i>	

~~When given for copying~~

[Despatch Abstract.]