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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

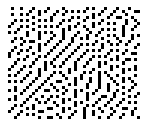
Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No:	118	Press. / Mis.

Dated 17.1.1881 19 97

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Archives I—10,006—19-4-79.



B.O. No 118 dt. 17.1.1881

No. 1,973.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 23rd December 1880.

Read the following letter from E. F. WEBSTER, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 16th December 1880, No. 6,362 :—

IN continuation of my letters, Nos. A and 5,912, dated 24th and 26th November 1880, respectively, I have the honor to submit a further report on the results of the late storm.

2. The taluks* comprising the Head Assistant Collector's Division have suffered most severely, but it is not yet possible to gauge accurately the amount of damage done in any part of the district or to state what is the total acreage of land swamped by the floods and what proportion of that land has suffered total loss. It rained heavily every day till the 8th instant, and it still remains to be seen what influence the present sunny weather may have on crops that have been long submerged. Prices do not rise; a cullum of car paddy (twenty-four Madras measures) stands at Rs. 1-1-0, and there is no tendency among the merchants to hold back for higher prices. These facts indicate clearly that, in the opinion of those who are capable of making a fairly accurate forecast of the coming rice harvest, there is no reason to anticipate a considerable diminution of the total average outturn of the district. There will, I believe, be an abundant harvest of grains. The varagu is finer than I ever remember to have seen it, and it has been extensively cultivated. Dhall, on the other hand, has suffered severely, but has not been grown very extensively. The Board will remember that the storm commenced on the night of Saturday the 20th of November, and was at its worst about midday on Sunday. In twenty-four hours from noon on Saturday 6 inches of rain were registered in Tanjore and 2¼ more fell during the next twenty-four hours making a total of 8·50, and with this rainfall the Vadavár breached in four places and the Vennár in five places.

* Tanjore and Kumbakónam.

3. The Vadavár is, in my opinion, both a very dangerous river and a very unsatisfactory one regarded as a source of irrigation. It is dangerous because, in addition to the supply it receives from the Vennár, it has to carry the sudden and very heavy floods to which the Mudallai Mutti "Vari" (or jungle river) is liable; and it is unsatisfactory as a source of supply because, among other reasons, the Public Works Department have not yet succeeded in preventing the accumulation of silt at its head. A glance at the map will show the Board that this river flows east immediately to the north of the mark which is intended to indicate the position of the town of Tanjore, but, in truth, the Vadavár passes through Púkolam, one of the suburbs of the town, and at a higher level than the foundation of the houses. In my opinion, if the river had not breached to the west of Tanjore it must certainly have done so in the immediate vicinity of Púkolam, where its bank is lower than it should be, with the almost certain result of occasioning great loss of life and wide destruction of property; what did happen was that the river escaped to the west of Tanjore and flowing eastwards inundated Púkolam and levelled to the ground a whole street of thatched houses. On the 22nd November three more breaches occurred in the Vadavár submerging all crops in the neighbourhood of Pundy, a village lying some seven miles to the east of Tanjore.

4. These were followed on the 23rd by seven breaches in the Ananda Cauvery near the Budalúr Railway Station and by another breach on the same day in the Vadavár, which entirely swept away the houses of the cultivators and all Pariah huts in Sungarttidal, and by extensive breaches in the Vennár, Vadavár, Cedamutti, and

Ananda Cauvery, which submerged a tract of rice-land lying between the villages of Venkatasamuthram and Nidar, some ten miles in length and a mile broad, the mischief being increased by the Kemakattugal drainage channel having burst its banks in four or five places.

5. The Kumbakónam Tahsildar reported on the 22nd that many villages in his taluk were submerged by the floods in Tanjore and that the water overflowing the drainage channel Poyigaiyar was doing much damage to crops and dwellings. Going eastwards there are, of course, as we approach the sea, fewer breaches to record, the water having well nigh spent itself higher up stream. Thus in Máyavaram there was but one breach of any great consequence, and this, by the strenuous efforts of the Tahsildar, was finally closed on the 6th instant, and from Shiyáli no breach has been reported.

6. Turning next to the Subdivision, I have to report eighteen breaches in the Negapatam Taluk, distributed between the Vettár, Kudiváyar, and Vedáyar, and the complete destruction of a village called "Muttam" by floods from the Vettár, all the inhabitants being saved and carried in boats to Nagore.

7. From Nannilam reports have been received of nineteen breaches in the Vettár and of interruption of communication between Tiruvarúr and Máyavaram.

8. Passing to the Mannárgudi Deputy Collector's Division,* I have to record the occurrence of sixty-seven breaches in the Mannárgudi Taluk, distributed as follows: seventeen in the Pamaniyar, fifteen in the Koraiyar, one in the Vennár, one in the Vellayni, seventeen in other rivers, and sixteen in various tanks, all of which, it should be noted, occurred on or before the 25th November. In the Tiruturaipúndi Taluk twelve breaches have been reported.

* Mannárgudi and Tiruturaipúndi Taluks.

9. I have not heard of any breaches in the Pattukóta Taluk.

10. In the town of Tanjore 700 houses and huts have been destroyed and the important road running north to Tiruvadi has been widely breached in several places. Kumbakónam was flooded on the 26th November and many huts destroyed, but nothing approaching the number which were swept away in Tanjore. The town is now fast recovering from the effects of the flood, and the same may be said of Negapatam. All breaches in the Tanjore Taluk have now been closed, and the work is proceeding elsewhere as vigorously as possible.

11. The destruction of roads all over the district has been very great and will, I am sorry to say, sadly interrupt the work of extending and improving our communications which the Local Fund Boards have taken seriously in hand. It is some satisfaction to state that the loss of life has been far less than was to be expected. In the Tiruturaipúndi Taluk a Constable is reported to have been drowned and in Vypoor Thenpadi, a village in the Negapatam Taluk, a choultry fell during the storm and killed eleven people who had sought shelter in it. These are the only deaths reported to me in addition to those mentioned in my report of the 26th November, No. 5,912.

12. What I have written above is the record of a disaster which is neither more nor less than the complete and utter collapse of the whole Delta Irrigation Scheme extending from Western Tanjore, where the rivers take off from the main stream, down to the sea coast, and I would beg the Board to observe that much of this deplorable state of things occurred almost immediately after the storm and is not to be attributed to the extraordinarily heavy rainfall, which lasted for some ten days after the storm had abated.

13. It appears to me that if the Public Works Department are not able to protect Tanjore from liability to disaster from uncontrolled floods, it would be a difficult task to justify their continuance here at all; for with the distribution of water they have scarcely anything to do; and they cannot hope to bring new areas under cultivation although possibly an isolated project may here and there crop up as at Gánvasal.

14. Doubtless the Chief Engineer for Irrigation is aware that Tanjore is not yet sufficiently protected from inundation, and perhaps I shall not be very wide of the mark if I assume that the difficulty in finding money for works that are well known to be necessary is one reason why more has not yet been done. If this be the case, I think much good would result if the Public Works Department would sometimes seek the co-operation of the Collector by requesting him to bring his influence to bear on the people, to point out to them the value of works which are required for the safety or improvement of the Delta, but for the execution of which funds are not available, and to ask them to assist either with money or labor. A great impetus might in this way be given to the execution of protective works of the highest value to the people and to the public purse. At present, there is an immense force lying, as it were, behind the Collector, inert and lost to the country, but which only requires stimulating to rouse it into life and activity.

15. I write in no spirit of complaint but with an earnest wish to draw the Public Works Department and the Collector closer together so as to combine and utilize the two forces with as little waste of power as possible: and I should be glad to think that in future, whenever a financial difficulty arises in connection with estimates for embankments or for new drainage channels, or for increasing the capacity of irrigation channels or for the improved alignment of a channel, or for other similar works, the Collector will be asked whether he can obtain from the people any, and what, contribution, either in the shape of money or labor, to be performed under the supervision of the Public Works Department; and I am satisfied that substantial assistance would often be given most cheerfully. Lest the Board should be inclined to doubt whether my anticipations are likely to be realized, I would add just two words: I have recently placed before the Superintending Engineer a suggestion made to me by the Mirassidars of Shiyáli that the capacity of the Rajan Vaikal, which is one of their principal channels, should be increased in view to providing the taluk with a more adequate supply of water; and if the proposal be hereafter reported to be feasible and unobjectionable they have offered to contribute Rs. 50,000 towards the cost of the works.

In submitting a further report on the effects of the recent storm the Collector states that though considerable damage has been done to the crops it has not been sufficient to influence prices, which remain stationary, and that there are no grounds for anticipating any material deficit in the harvest. Owing, however, to the extensive breaching of the numerous rivers which traverse the district and the insufficiency of the drainage to carry off any but an ordinary surplus the destruction of house property and the interruption of communications has been very great. In Púkolam, a suburb of Tanjore, a whole street of thatched houses is reported to have been levelled to the ground: in Tanjore itself 700 houses have been destroyed, and in the Negapatam Táluk the whole village of Muttam was swept away, the inhabitants having managed to save themselves in boats. The comparatively small loss of life is very remarkable when the extent and violence of the floods are considered.

2. Mr. Webster characterizes the disaster as "neither more nor less than the complete and utter collapse of the whole Delta Irrigation Scheme extending from Western Tanjore, where the rivers take off from the main stream, down to the sea coast." This is rather overstating the case, but there is no question that the damage to the works has been very great, resulting in heavy loss both to the Government and the people. Mr. Webster is probably right in his surmise that the main obstacle to the adequate protection of the district from inundation is the want of funds and that the engineering difficulties though great are not insuperable, but his proposals for providing the necessary means for the execution of these protective works, which find expression in the concluding paragraphs of his letter under notice, do not commend themselves to the Board. When the irrigation of a tract of country and the vend of water for agricultural purposes is monopolized by the State, the Government are clearly bound to make provision, not only for the supply of water, but also for the protection of

private property which is subject to its influence, and the Board consider that the raising of subscriptions by public officers for such purposes is a proceeding as inequitable as it is undignified. The fact that the wealthy land-holders of Tanjore are ready and willing to contribute does not alter the state of the case from the above point of view, but it affords unmistakable proof of what has been urged more than once, viz., that they are well able to contribute more than they do at present to the public necessity in return for the many advantages which the local position of Tanjore affords. If the revision (too long delayed) of the settlement is conducted there as in other districts there will be no lack of funds to carry out the works proposed.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" . Collector of Tanjore.

Esq. A. S. Rodgers.

1880.

REPORT OF GOVERNMENT,

MADRAS,

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVT.,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated December 23rd.

Printed January 7th, 1881.

Received

Proceedings, 23rd December 1880, No. 1,973.

REMEMBER.

No. 1,973.

Storm—in Tanjore District.—Submitting to Government, with remarks, Collector's further report on the results of the late —

levelled to the ground in Khapree itself 700 houses have been destroyed and in the Sequestrum talak the whole village of Allalan was overflowed the inhabitants having removed to save themselves in boats. The comprehensive and Correct list of life is very remarkable when the extent and violence of the floods are considered.

2. The Rules characterize the disaster in "seldes more severe than the complete and utter "collapse of the whole Deccan "irrigation scheme depending "from Western streams where "the rivers run off from mountain "ridges & have to be crossed

"by "dams" [illegible]

[illegible] the case but there is no question that the damage to the works has been very great resulting in heavy loss both to the Government and the people. Whether is probably right in the surmise that the main obstacle to the adequate protection of the district from inundation is the want of funds and that the increasing difficulties are not insuperable but the proposals for providing the necessary means for the execution of these protective works should form the subject of a letter under notice to the Commissioner & to the Board.

When the question of a tank for Coondy and the use of water for Agriculture at these places is mentioned by the state the Government are clearly bound to take precaution of

only for the supply of water for
also for the protection of private
property which is subject to the
influence and the Bonaz Company
that the payment of such certificates
by public officers for such pur-
poses is a proper & unexceptionable
and if is unprofitable. The fact
that the wealthy land holders of Jaypore
are ready and willing to contribute
their proportion of the cost
from the above named sum
& affords an unmistakable proof
that has been urged. We
can only say that they are well
able to contribute more than
is at present to the public revenue
from the payment of certificates
by the Company & Government
for the payment of the

delayed) of the settlement in undertaken
there, or in other districts there will
be no lack of funds to carry on
the works proposed.

(True Extract)

Secy
Secretary.

To
The Secretary to Govt N.W.P.
with copy of letter from Collector
of Jaunpore dated 16th December
1862.

No 6362.

Jaypore Collector's office
Jaypore 16th December 1882

From

E. F. Webster Esquire
Collector of
Jaypore.

To

C. A. Galton Esquire
Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras.

In continuation of my
Letter No 6092 dated 24th
and 26th November last I have
the honor to submit
a further report on the result
of the Cole crop.

Jaypore
Collectorate

The Taluq comprising
the Head Office Sub Collectorate
circle has suffered much

severely

severely hurt if no rain soon should
to Grange occasion a the increase
of damage done on early part
of the Dec Each as low lake what
is the total Decrease of Seed —
remained by the flood and what
proportion of that Seed has suffered
Total Loss. If severe hoar frosty
today till the 8th shall and it
will remain late season until
after Christmas the ground shall
be all broke up. Hares and Crops
that have been long submerged.
Price do not raise, a Collum
for early ploughing 24 bushels
the acre / Land not Ploughed
and there is no tendency
among the farmers to
Call back for keeping Horses.
Year

Shete facts indicate clearly that
in the opinion of those who are capable
of making a fair, accurate forecast
of the Coming Rice harvest, there is no rea-
-son to anticipate a considerable di-
-minution of the total average outturn
of the District. This will, I believe,
be an abundant harvest of Grain.
The average of former Years should remain-
-der to have been sown and has been
Satisfactorily cultivated. Shall, on the
other hand, the Indications given by
that has not been found correct, Sat-
-isfactorily. The Board will remember
that

Hat the Same Commenced on the
night of Saturday the 28th Jan
-ber and was at its worst about
Midday on Sunday the 29th Instant
from noon on Saturday Either of said
days Repaired in Engine and Ship
Mill during the month of Instant
making a total of 250 cubic Feet
of Sawn Ball the Valance Cracked
in four places and the Corner in Five
places

3 The Valance is in my opin-
-ion both a very dangerous Situation
a very unsatisfactory one Repaired
At a Lowered

of Surveyors. If in Surveyors
because, in addition to the
supply of Received from the Owners
of Ran to carry the Wooden Cross
Very heavy Goods to which the
Wooden Mast Was Subjected
in Sailing Mast Was Supplied
and a Course of Triple Reinforced
Across of Wooden Mast Was
Repaired and Yet the
Circle of Iron Circumference
Three of Circle of Iron Glass
of the Mast Cold Chain Bolts
at the Iron Iron Cross Bolts
by to the Centre of the Mast Bolts
to the Circle of the Mast Bolts
Section of the Lower Mast
Cut in Side the Valance Leaves

damage to crops and dwellings. Every endeavour
there are, of course, to be approached to the
fewer breaches to record, the water having
well nigh spent itself higher up stream.
The in Kayaveram there are, which are likely
of any great consequence and due to the
strenuous efforts of the Inhabitants are finally
closed or the Circuit and from Steadily
no breach has been reported.
6. Coming north to the Side Division I
have to report 18 breaches in the Vegetation
Colony, distributed between the Vellar, River
Mayar, and Pyelayar & the Complete destruc-
tion of a village called Mullaiveri by
floods from the Vellar all the inhabitants
being rescued and carried in boats to
Chidambaram.
7. From Chidambaram reports have been
received of 19 breaches in the Vellar and
of inundation of Communication between
Chidambaram and Kayaveram.
8. A Report of the Kumaragudy &
Vellaiyar Division I have to record the
occurrence of 67 breaches in the Kumaragudy
Colony destroying 20 Villages

I in the Woman, I in the Cottages of the Village were blown down, & many Trees torn up by the Roots, & Houses unroofed. In the Evening I Gentleman came to my House, & informed me that he had been informed by a Person who came from Tiverton, that the Bridge there was broken down by the Violence of the Flood, & that the Water was then flowing over the Street. I immediately went to the Bridge, & found that the Report was true. The Water was then flowing over the Bridge, & the Arch on the Tiverton side of the Bridge was broken down. The Water was then flowing over the Bridge, & the Arch on the Tiverton side of the Bridge was broken down. The Water was then flowing over the Bridge, & the Arch on the Tiverton side of the Bridge was broken down.

10. In the Town of Tiverton two Houses and Shops have been destroyed and the remainder (and Premises) damaged. Two Bridges have been entirely broken down & several Houses & Shops have suffered considerably. The Number which were swept away in Tiverton, the Town & near Each respectively from the effects of the Flood & the Names from the Vicar of Clapham. All Inquiries on the Tiverton Valley have not been closed & the only & Particulars which I am informed as follows.

11. The destruction of Roads all over the District has been very great in all Parts of the County. Nearly [illegible] Bridges & Embankments [illegible] Communications which the Local Board have taken Cognizance of. It is impossible to state that the loss of life has been far less than was to be expected. In the Tiverton Valley I am informed to have been drowned, a Village in the Upper Tiverton Valley, a Shoemaker fell during the Storm and killed eleven People who had sought Shelter in it. These are the only Deaths reported to me as having Taken place in consequence of the Storm of the 26 of November, 1872.

12. What I have written above is the Record of a Disaster which in Number of Persons not less than the Complete Ruin & Collapse of the Tiverton Valley & Embankments from Tiverton where the Rivers take off from the Main Stream down to the Bay Canal and Closed by the Bank of Sand that Burst & the Depth of the Water which Flowed & Ebbed with the Tide & Rivers Communication

True Copy

Secretary

Rev. Dept. 21

Boards Prog. No 1973
d/23d Decr /80

Mr Huddleston's note of 25th [illegible]

I think what the Collr. states in para 13 to end of his letter, is of very great importance, & we shd. distinctly affirm his opinion.

The matter is this — It is undeniable that our yearly Grant for Irrigation Repairs is altogether inadequate, leaving no margin whatever for the reparation of a disaster like this —

In a district where the revenue is screwed up to the highest point, the Ryots, having nothing to spare, wd. sit down & cry till such time as the Govt. could [illegible] out the repairs.

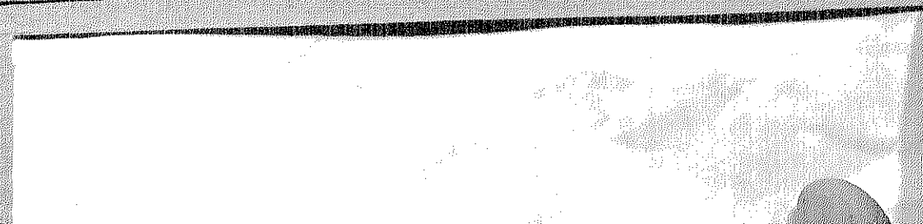
But Tanjore being lightly assessed, the substantial Ryots are ready with their labour & money, to provide agst. the recurrence of such disasters, ~~[illegible]~~ & are ready generally to aid the Govt. Engineers.

The [illegible] enquiry [illegible] private property is [illegible] as [illegible] public works in Tanjore [illegible] 25/12

Rev. Beh.

Progressive Class
28 Sept. to 1913

I crave to the views taken
by my dear Colleagues -
& Swami Omkarananda
before January last
(according to the Calendar)
which were for the
the Complete evolution
Collapse of the whole
Solar Organization scheme
of the Cosmos -
Miscellaneous Amrit
Bazar Patrika Amrita
Mr. Mrs. Nehru &
Effectively accepted.



No doubt the proper
mode would be for the
work to be undertaken
by the Irrigation Dept
at the cost of Govt but
in our state of financial
starvation this cannot
be done, & even if it could
be done it would (as it
seems to me) be quite
fair to ask those
who are benefitted
to contribute towards
the expense by increased
assessment or otherwise.
But if this be so why is it
not be equally fair &
neither "undesirable nor
inequitable" to obtain the
contribution at once rather
than spread over a
series of years. If therefore
the Ryots of Tanjore are
in a position to make the
it right and proper
for Govt to ask them for
assistance in any way
I see no reason against
the course suggested
by the Collector being
approved

WPC
Jan 10 1881

the Justices Examination would
therein be thereby rendered
altogether useless & void
& the Justices therefore
would for the future be
subjected to the Inconvenience
of having their Examinations
returned to them to be
altered & amended
as often as any Error
or Omission should be found
therein which would be
attended with great Delay
& Expence to the Parties
concerned & frequently
prevent Justice being done
at all

Note the Act 5th Geo. 4th
has added the Words
"after the Expiration of the
said Time" to the Clause
in the Second Draft of enabling
the Justices to amend
their Examinations
& Depositions after the
Expiration of the Time
limited by the Act

in the Recognizance specified
or Time limited
by the Order of Sessions
or Adjournment
as the Case may be
& to certify
the same
accordingly

21st The Public Records } 2 Geo. 4th Cap.
20 & Board of Records } 65
3.