M.R.O. 14—5,450—23-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue- **DEPARTMENT:**

G.O. No. 2738 Press Mis.

341.842

Dated 19 — 11 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 341. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Dowlaishweram, 29th October 1867, No. 173 :—

1 Copy of letter from Mr. Rundall, No. 428, dated 24th October 1867.
1 Copy of letter from Superintending Engineer, No. 88, dated 28th June 1867, to Sub-Collector Horsfall.
1 Copy of letter from Sub-Collector, No. 132, dated 10th July 1867.

1. I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from Mr. Rundall, Executive Engineer, reporting that, during the late floods of the Godavery, the villagers cut the river bank in several places in the Western Delta. Several similar cases occurred also in the Central Delta.

2. The cost of repairing these breaches will be about Rupees 600. Crops to same extent were destroyed, but had the flood, as occasionally is the case, risen two or three feet higher, the damage to public and private property would have been very great, and probably the catastrophe would have been attended with loss of life.

3. To maintain the river banks in a proper state of repair must always be troublesome and costly, and their safety during heavy floods must always be a source of anxiety to those in charge of them, as also to those whose property and lives are depending on their stability; and it is quite preposterous that whilst we are watching them night and day, doing our best to prevent accidents, breaches should be with impunity cut by ryots to some extent ignorant of the possible results of their acts, but utterly indifferent to the ruin they bring upon others so long as the least possible gain accrue to themselves.

4. I cannot but believe that the ryots of the Godavery can so far be governed as to prevent them doing that which must sooner or later lead to enormous losses to Government, and ruin to thousands of their fellow country-men; I would suggest that, as a primary and mild repressive measure against these outrages, an efficient Police be entertained to watch the banks at the expense of the offending villages.

5. I have also the honor to forward a copy of correspondence, relative to the destruction by the ryots of certain channels in the Western Delta; they are and always have been more destructive in that delta than in the central or eastern, and not only cut breaches and put up cross banks, but take up sluice floors and pull down small weirs.

6. In the Eastern Delta there is now very little to complain of; the Collector holds the Moonsiff responsible for the good conduct of his village: offences against the irrigation system are infrequent, and when perpetrated the culprit is usually detected and punished.

7. The Sub-Collector considers himself powerless to help us unless we produce the man who destroys our works, and support our accusation with ample evidence; it is obviously impossible that we can do so, once in one hundred cases. Mr. Horsfall also thinks it would be unfair to hold the Moonsiff responsible, as without his knowledge, breaches, &c., might be cut. I believe that our experience proves pretty conclusively that such will not be the case, and our general impression is that river embankments or irrigation works are not extensively interfered with

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until after the subject has been deliberately discussed by the village conclave, in which the village officials take the most prominent parts.

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Referred to the Revenue Department.

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

6th November 1867.

No. 342. ORDER THEREON, 19th November 1867, No. 2,738.

Irrigation, No. 12.

1. The Board of Revenue will call on the Collector of the Godavery District to report whether the same measures which have proved efficacious in the principal Division of the district for checking wilful damage to irrigation works cannot be fairly and effectively carried out in the Sub-division.

2. The responsibility of the village officers for the care of public property and works within their ranges should be strictly enforced.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public Works Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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W. 2738- 34

The Bd. of Rev. will call on the Collr. of the Godavery District to report whether the same measures have proved efficacious in the [illegible] for checking wilful damage to irrign. works cannot be fairly & effectually carried out in the Sub. Colln. division. The responsibility of the Village officers for the care of public property & works in their own ranges sh. be strictly enforced.

[illegible]

19th Nov./67.

[illegible] copies to the Bd of Rev with 3 enclo. Dept. [illegible]
21 — O.R. Dept [illegible]