M.R.O. 14—19,000—27-9-94

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue—**DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 72 Press Mis.

140 . 141

Dated 10 — 1 — 1867

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 140. Read the following letter from the Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp, Anantapur, 10th December 1866, No. 88 :—

1. With reference to Government Order, dated 5th December 1866, No. 3,293, paragraph 2, drawing my attention to the statement in paragraph 2 of the Superintending Engineer's letter of 19th November 1866, regarding the neglect of villagers to report to the Department Public Works the disrepair of the tanks, I have the honor to inform you that very stringent orders on the subject have been already issued in the District Gazette of October last, and that when the failure of a tank has been proved to have resulted from the neglect of village officers, they have been dismissed, and damages recovered from recusant ryots.

2. From a recent personal inspection of an important work in the Anantapur Range, which was breached in October, and the result ascribed to the fault of the villagers, I have ascertained that the cause of the breach was not that to which it was attributed, and that the breach having previously occurred in the same place (the rest of the bund being in good order), was due to faulty professional repair, and not to any neglect of the villagers.

3. It was alleged that the dangerous state of this tank was orally mentioned by a Range Officer to a Tahsildar, but this has been denied ; whereas any important tank observed in a dangerous state by the Department Public Works, should be reported by letter to the Collector, and repairs commenced on emergency, in anticipation of sanction, while the tank is empty. Neither of these things was done. The stoppage of deep-seated leaks when a tank is full, is both a difficult and hazardous operation, and digging into the bund for that purpose, which was done on this occasion, is as likely to accelerate as to prevent the catastrophe, consequently I think that the inspection of all important works, once a year, before the monsoon sets in, and the immediate report of such as are unsafe to the Collector, is a due professional precaution, and preferable to trusting such duties to ignorant village officers.

4. Rat holes are not observable on the face of tank bunds, which in this district are invariably rivetted with stone ; and superficial ruts, caused by traffic above the water line, if they existed, but which were not apparent in this case on my inspection, will not cause leaks at the base ; but bad internal materials, or foundations, are the more obvious causes of such leaks, and it would be desirable that a thorough inspection of breached works should, in each case, precede the ascription of blame for the result.

No. 141. ORDER THEREON, 10th January 1867, No. 72.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Department Public Works.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Department Public Works.
,, the Collector of Bellary.
Ed. S. T. Augustin.

1872.

Coms'd to the D.P.W.

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