

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1484.

DATED 18th March '97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording with remark. Prop of the Board of Revenue
passing orders on the further report on the floods
in the Canyons and the Coleroon in July 1896.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

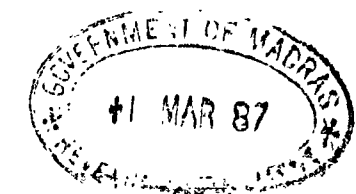
FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No.

The Hon. Mr. Grose. C.F.E



Order Mis. No. 1484, dy 18 March '97
16/3/97

From
The Board of Revenue
(Rev. Sett., L. R. & Agri.).

Recorded.

2. The Govt Concurs
in the remarks of the Board
in para 4 of its Progs.

No. 1394 Mis:

Dated 23rd February 1897

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Recording with remarks letter from
the Collector of Trichinopoly
submitting further report on the
floods in the Cauvery and the
Coleroon in July 1896.

To the Board of Rev (Rev. sett).
Des. 19-3-97

12/3/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
10250	8	16-1-97	
5982	18-9-96		
G.O. 3986	Rm.		5-10-96

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Trichinopoly Collector's office,
Forest Branch camp, Vyampatti, dated 29-11p-
-96; Despatched 30th November 1896.

R.C.No: 240/F.

To.

The Collector of Trichinopoly.

OFFICE NOTE.

I beg to report the damage done to the Forest Padugais by the recent flood.

are not reserved forests. In all these Padugais, 660
In the Trichinopoly range, Padugais, Babul, Barringtonia and other trees worth Rs 250 and 1000 Casuarina plants worth Rs 1250 were washed away and 2000 young bahul seedlings worth Rs 200 killed by excess of water. In addition it is estimated that the Department will incur loss of Rs 60 per annum for a period of 5 years from the removal and lopping of fruit trees used by the P.W.D. for closing breaches though their value has been paid by that Department.

2. In Kulitalai range, the Padugais are Reserved Forests. The damage done to the several padugais is given below.
In Etamanur Reserved Forest, a few trees were knocked down and the Casuarina much damaged by excess of water. The compartment Boards were all knocked down as also many of the demarcation stones. The cattle pound inside was also demolished.

In Marudur Reserved Forest some babul trees felled down. In Lalapet all the casuarinas are dead and many babul and bamboo clumps were overthrown. 15 acres of land has been washed away from this plantation.

In Sittalayoi, all the trees marked for reservation were broken by the wind and about 500 casuarinas killed by excess of water. In Kattalai and Mayenur babul, neem, vagai, casuarina and Konnai trees were knocked down and some trees dried up.

In Manuttattai, all the standards were blown down. In Kuli-talai, konnai trees died and felled down; a large number of casuarina died owing to the water lying on their roots. Nearly

2.

all Compartment Boards and some demarcation stones were overthrown. The number of trees damaged cannot be ascertained, as the growth is very dense and there are prickly pear and thorny shrubs in some places.

3. The damage done in Udayarpalayam Range was as follows:-

6 acres of padugai land in Sripurutharbit No: 1, 4 in Arumangadan, 2 in Valakurichi, and 3 acres in Aramana/kurichi and an extent of land varying in breadth from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 chains was washed away along the Annimangalam, Karaipakkam, Manjamadu Tirumanur, Sengarandi, Alakurichi and Tennamanallur padugais and sand to a depth of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 feet deposited in most of the padugais; 39 palmyrah trees were washed away from and several overthrown in Ammilai and Annagarampettai reserves and some survey stones from Valakurichi. The damage done to in this range, when compared with the other two Ranges, is not heavy.

(Signed) V. Ramasamy Ayar.

For Ag: District Forest officer.

(True Copy)

(Signed) J. Sundara Row

For Ag: Collector.

(True Copy)

P. V. Srinivasan
Secretary.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

Dated 25th February 1897.

No. 1394 Mis:

READ the following letter from the Collector of Trichinopoly, dated 30th December 1896 Ref: I on Current No: 2368/ Rev: :-

With reference to B. P. No: 3529/1-8-96, Mis: ,I have the honor to submit the following further report on the floods in the Cauvery and the Coleroon in this district in July last.

2. The floods in the Cauvery this year were the highest on record since 1858 as shown by the reading at the Cauvery bridge in Trichinopoly, while in the Coleroon, they were even higher than in 1858 by about 3 inches, as shown by the reading at the Lower Anicut. The duration of the floods was much longer this year than on the last occasion of any serious river-flood, which was in October 1887 (Vide the report read in B. P. No: 875 L.R. dated 17-12-887). The maximum height of the flood in 1887 was only 13.30 feet at the Cauvery bridge and the river began to fall in a few hours, whereas this year the readings at the bridge were as noted in the margin and the maximum reached was exactly one foot higher than in 1887, and the river remained in higher floods than in that year for four full days .

x Date	Reading in the morning- Reading in the evening.		Note:- The maximum reading at the Cauvery bridge in 1858 was 16 feet, but then it was a combined river and land flood.
	Feet	Feet	
28-7-96	9.40	11.30	
29-7-96	12.40	13.0	
30-7-96	13.40	14.0	
31-7-96	14.30	14.0	
1-8-96	13.50	13.90	
2-8-96	13.90	13.50	
-8-96	12.90	12.60	
8-96	12.0	12.0	
-96	11.50	11.0	

which were rendered fit for the resumption

Registrar stationed at Unjalur (about 65 miles higher up) gave fairly timely warnings of the state of the river . Copies of these ~~of these~~ telegrams were promptly sent to the Superintending and Executive Engineers , the Superintendent of Police the Municipal Chairman and to all subordinate Revenue officers concerned for information and guidance ; and every precaution was taken to guard against danger and damage.

4. In spite of all precautions , the following breaches occurred in the flood banks.:-

Musiri Taluk --11 breaches of a total length of 980 feet in the left bank of the Cauvery above the Upper Anicut.

Kulitalai Taluk. -- Nil.

Trichinopoly Taluk. --Two breaches of lengths of 860 and 250 feet respectively in the left bank of the Coleroon.

20 breaches (fairly large) in the right bank of the Coleroon near the villages on the island of Srirangam below Srirangam town and one large breach in the left bank of the Cauvery near Melur village in Srirangam island a - - - little above Srirangam town.

Udayarpalayam Taluk. - 95 breaches in the leftbank of the Coleroon - Some of them longer than 1000 feet. These breaches caused a considerable number of smaller breaches in the banks of the irrigation channels lying close to the river -chiefly in the case of the Nattuvoikal in Srirangam/island and the Ponneri channel in Udayarpalayam Taluk

5. These breaches inundated almost the whole island of Srirangam as well as villages in other localities close to the

open gaps in the flood banks intended to drain jungle into the river on occasions of land floods and inundated the adjacent country.

6. The following statement shows the damage caused to lands, crops and other property. Trichinopoly Taluk-Udayarpalayam

(a) Young crops washed away or destroyed. 755 acres of wet. 269 acres of wet 232 acres of dry.

(b) Land silted up or scoured away or otherwise rendered unfit for cultivation..... 377 acres of wet... 322 acres of dry land and a comparatively very small area of wet.

(c) Seed and seedlings destroyed or washed away... worth about 7000 Rs. worth about 2831 Rs.

(d) Cattle carried away... 4 head of cattle-26 head of cattle worth about 25Rs. worth about 200Rs.

(e) Houses 48 houses wholly destroyed to the value of Rs 790. 556 houses wholly destroyed to the value of Rs 5,623. 330 houses partly damaged to the extent of Rs 1390.

7. For several days, even after the river began to fall steadily, water continued to flow through the larger breaches, as the force of the current that originally escaped through them

had made deep cuts in the bunds. This made it impossible for some days to close the breaches so as to prevent further damage. But in almost all cases, as soon as it was possible to do so, the Tahsildars and other Revenue officers concerned had the breaches closed temporarily or had the necessary ring bunds put up, by the ryots at their own cost. The ryots were thus enabled to recommence the cultivation of the lands affected without undue delay. The substantial closure of all the breaches has since been completed by the D.P.W.. The extent of damage done to the D.P.W. banks and masonry works may be estimated at about Rs 40,000.

Most of the lands affected were recultivated almost immediately afterwards. Tahsildars were ordered to azmoish the fields concerned at once so as to be able to dispose of any claims for remission that may be put forward at the Jamabandi. It is believed that these claims will be very few as there are few cases in which the lands cannot be reclaimed in the current fasli. Tahsildars were also ordered to make advances under the Loans Acts for the reclamation of the damaged lands or for purchase of fresh seed to such of the ryots as were in need of them.

9. In the case of houses destroyed, timber was ordered to be supplied free from Government lands to the poorest of the sufferers. In four villages of Udayarpalayam Taluk involving about 109 houses, the owners were Parayars barely able to earn their daily bread. Arrangements were made by the General Deputy Collector to raise private subscriptions to enable them to buy thatch and other materials not available in Government lands. Mr. Andrew headed the subscription list with Rs 100 and the Zemindar of Udayarpalayam subsequently came forward with a liberal gift of Rs 125. The subscription amounted to only Rs 284, as except the Udayarpalayam Zemindar, there was only one non-official subscriber (who subscribed Rs 2.)

10. Fortunately there was no loss of human life. In the eastern end of Udayarpalayam Taluk, where there were large and numerous breaches, the people had to take refuge from the inundation on the tops of houses and on trees. They were, however, promptly and safely landed the next morning by means of ferry boats under the personal supervision of the Tahsildar of that Taluk.

11. A few local fund roads were also damaged in the island of Srirangam and near the lower anikut, where the breaches

of traffic as soon as possible. A good deal of road repair still remains to be done on the grand Anicut Road situated on the flood bank, but this cannot be taken on in hand until the D.P.W. have perfected their scheme, which is now under Col: Smart's investigation.

12. The forest lands and plantations adjoining the rivers also suffered some damage. A copy of the District Forest Officer's report on the subject is herewith forwarded.

13. The damage that occurred was very much what might have been expected considering the extraordinary character and the suddenness of this year's floods. A good deal of damage of all kinds was successfully averted by the ^{ne} energy and hearti-
-ness with which the Revenue officers concerned worked during the time that the floods lasted and by the hearty

manner in which the ryots turned out to do all the Kudimaramatlabour that was demanded of them by the District Officials

14. I would bring specially to notice the good work turned out in certain cases. Mr: Andrew personally attended to the safety of what is known as the Kodamuramati embankment in Trichinopoly town with the hearty co-operation of the Superintending Engineer Mr: Hughes. This is the bank of a jungle stream which empties itself into the Cauvery just above the Trichinopoly town. The floods had banked up through the mouth of this junglestreat and had inundated about five square miles of the adjacent country. The safety of the bank was essential to save about a mile of the line immediately below it as well as a considerable portion of the ^{native} town. The Town Sub-Magistrate was put in special charge of the work. He successfully and energetically carried out the instructions given him and thus saved this important bank from being breached. The late Municipal Chairman M.R.R. Sagaravelu Pillai materially helped in this work both by occasional personal superintendence and by placing at the disposal of the Sub-Magistrate a large number of his experienced coolies, carts &c.

The Municipal Chairman and the Inspector of Police, Srirangam, also did their utmost to save that town from being flooded chiefly by the above mentioned Melur breach (vide para 4), which is close to the head of the important Nattuvoikal channel.

15. I must also acknowledge the valuable assistance rendered by Colonel Porteous, Commandant of the IV Pioneers in readily placing at Mr: Andrew's disposal his officers and a large number of his sepoys at a most critical time. These turned out a great deal of useful work and materially helped in saving the Kodumurti bank and also did much good work under dangerous circumstances at the Melur breach under the energetic supervision of Mr: Allen, the Executive Engineer.

16. I must also mention the specially valuable services done by the Police force on the occasion. Mr: West (Superintendent of Police) spared no personal exertion. The Inspectors of Police of Trichinopoly Town and of Srirangam under Mr: West's orders, worked hard in helping the people off the inundated parts in transporting themselves and their property and in guarding deserted houses and dangerous points on the river banks. The Police of all grades not only did their own legitimate duties but helped the Revenue officers materially in all that had to be done including manual labour.

17. Two ferry boats had to be kept engaged in Trichinopoly itself for 5 days at Rs 3 a day for each boat. They were very useful in transporting people and property from the inundated parts. I have the honor to request that the Board will be pleased to sanction the payment of Rs 30 being the charges incurred by the Town Sub-Magistrate on this account.

18. Special credit is also due to the Executive Engineer and other D.P.W. officers for the prompt manner in which the damage has been repaired.

19. I have not thought it necessary to submit a very detailed report as the Executive Engineer has sent in a full

report to the Superintending Engineer.

Resolution.

Recorded with reference to G.O. No: 250 Mis: dated 16th January 1897 R.D.

2. It is observed that damage was caused to lands and crops chiefly in the Trichinopoly and Udayarpalayam Taluks. The total area on which the crops were destroyed or washed away was 755 acres of wet in the former and ^{264 acres of wet and 232} ~~282~~ acres of dry land in the latter. About 700 acres of land were silted up or otherwise damaged and seed and seedlings worth about Rs 10000 were lost in the two taluks. Almost all the breaches were

temporarily closed in time to enable the ryots to recommence cultivation of the lands affected. The Tahsildars were

instructed to examine these lands at once so as to be able to help in the disposal of any claims for remission which may be put forward at the time of jamabandi and also to make advances under the Loans Acts to the needy ryots for reclaiming their damaged lands or for purchasing fresh seed.

3. The expenditure of Rs 30 referred to in para 17 of the letter read above is sanctioned from the allotment for

gratuitous relief sanctioned in G.O. No: 598 dated 18th Sep 1896.

4. Great credit is due to the marginally noted officers, who are reported by the Collector to have rendered very valuable assistance or good services.

1. Mr: Andrew
2. Mr: Hughes, Superintending Engineer.
3. Col: Porteous, Commandant of the IV Pioneers.
4. Mr: Allen, Executive Engineer.
5. Mr: West, Superintendent of Police.
6. M.R.R Singaravelu Pillai avergal, late Municipal Chairman.
7. Inspectors of Police, Srirangam & Trichinopoly Town.
8. Town Sub-Magistrate.
9. Other Rev: P.W, Military, & Police officers concerned.

(True Copy & Extract)

Secretary.

To. The Collector of Trichinopoly.

The Accountant General. (Para 3 only).
Copy to the Secretary to Govt. Secy. Deptt. with 1 Enclure.
do do to the Commissioner of Land Revenue, with one Enclure

Recd 27/2/97

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READ AGAIN G.O., No _____ DATED _____
189 ,

CURRENT No. _____

ENCLOSURES TO G. O. No. _____

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LETTERS OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH 

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