Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1606

DATED 25th March 97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Comm^g. to the B^d of Rev: P.W.D. & P.W.D.

Comm^g to the S.E. VI Circle for necessary action

Proc: Rev. Lett: framing orders on the question of raising the height of the old flood bank of the Tambaraparani river between Srivaikundam & Appankoil villages Tirunelly Dt: in order to prevent damage being done by floods.

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.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
22 MAR 97

From

The Public Works Department

Order No. 1606 Mis dy 25th March 97

Communicated to the Board of Revenue

No. 291. J

A.R. 23.3.97

Dated 19th March 97.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue) dis. 26-3-97

Received 22

Registered 22

Enclosures

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SUBJECT.

Flood bank of the Tambraparni River: Govt. Rev. Dept. passing orders on the question of raising the hight of the old — between Srivaikuntam and Appankoil villages, Timenelly Dt. in order to prevent damage being done by floods, Comtd. to S.E. VI circle for necessary action.

[illegible] 23/3/97

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O	No	Department.	Date.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

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G.O., No. 72, 5th February 1897.

FEBRUARY.

Floods.

Passing orders on the question of raising the height of the old flood bank of the Tambraparni river between Srivaikuntam and Appankoil villages, Tinnevelly district, in order to prevent damage being done by —.

Public Works Department.
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Read the following:—

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Mis. No. 2846, dated 22nd June 1896.

Abstract.—Recording, with reference to Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 2827, dated 20th June 1896, G.O., No. 2292, dated 12th June 1896, forwarding to the Board of Revenue, with remarks, a petition regarding the raising of the northern bank of the Tambraparni river in the Tinnevelly district.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Mis. No. 2827, dated 20th June 1896:—

Read—the following letter from A. W. B. HIGGENS, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated 11th June 1896, Ref. A. on Cur. No. 395-G.B.Gl.:—

I have the honour to submit the following report on the question relating to the villages between the old and new flood banks on the left bank of the Tambraparni river immediately below the Srívaikuntam anicut (between Srívaikuntam and Appankoil villages) regarding which several petitions addressed to the Board and the Government have been transferred to me for necessary action.

2. The question has been already fully considered by Government; and in G.O., No. 1108 I., dated 8th December 1884, Government decided that, as a special case, the old flood bank should be maintained at its former section, in order to give the villagers the same protection as they formerly enjoyed, and to obviate the possibility of any claim for compensation.

3. There are two villages—Sriparankusanallur and Varadharajapuram—with their hamlets and one hamlet of Appankoil between the two banks as shown in the lithographed plan attached to the printed petition enclosed. The flood of December last seriously damaged the old bank and caused considerable damage to houses and property in the area in question. It is reported that 860 thatched houses, 2 tiled and 6 pucka-built houses, were entirely destroyed, and that 63 thatched and 31 pucka-built houses were partially damaged. The extent of this damage is estimated by the Tahsildar at about Rs. 95,000. I have seen the villages and I can hardly believe the damage was so large. No doubt, however, it was very considerable. Some 1,043 buildings, including some temples and mosques were not seriously affected by the flood.

4. The Executive Engineer is not in favour of repairing the old bank and the Superintending Engineer has, in his letter printed in G.O., No. 383 I., dated 28th April 1896, communicated with Board's Proceedings, No. 2515 (Land Revenue), dated 2nd June 1896, suggested that new village-sites be given to the villagers north of the north main channel. The same suggestion is also referred to in the endorsement of Government, in the Public Works Department, No. 1984 C, dated 20th April 1896, forwarded to me for necessary action with Board's Proceedings, No. 2221, dated 14th May 1896. The Sub-Collector has, on personal inspection, selected suitable sites for new villages north of the north main channel. The villagers have, however, no wish whatever to move from their present village-sites, and urge the maintenance of the old bank. It does not seem possible to make them shift their residences unless the present buildings and sites are acquired under the Land Acquisition Act.

5. The villagers have no right to any compensation for the houses destroyed or damaged by the flood, but if their removal to another site is insisted on, it will be necessary to compensate them for the now existing houses and for all house-sites. The value of the existing buildings, excluding temples and mosques, is estimated at about Rs. 77,000. Deducting the value of materials which can be utilized, the cost of acquisition may be roughly taken at about Rs. 58,000. The area occupied by houses is said to be 36 acres and the villagers demand very exorbitant rates for the sites, varying from 12 annas to Rs. 3-8-0 per square yard, and the Tahsildar's estimate is also large. I consider that it will be sufficient to take into account the valuation of the proposed sites and to compensate the ejected villagers, if ejection be decided on, by exchange of lands. The Tahsildar has not furnished me with a detailed valuation of the new sites, but I think it may be taken roughly at Rs. 9,000 including cost of the large number of palmyrahs standing on the lands. There is an extent of about 928 acres of dry land (bearing an assessment of Rs. 1,472, including tree-tax) lying between the banks and occupied by the villagers, but this land need not be taken into consideration. It is covered chiefly with palmyrahs and thorn trees and did not suffer from the flood. The total cost of acquisition according to the above rough estimate amounts to Rs. 67,000, the annual interest at 4 per cent. on which will be Rs. 2,680.

6. The Executive Engineer estimates the cost of renewing the portion (about three miles) of the old bund lying between these villages and the rivers at Rs. 7,500. It may be said that this a recurring item of expenditure; but it will have to be incurred only on occasions of extraordinary floods like the last (say once in 15 years) and should thus be distributed over those years. The annual proportion may be roughly taken at Rs. 500. Adding to this a proportion of the annual cost of maintenance as estimated in the papers recorded in G.O., No. 1108 I., dated 8th December 1884, viz., Rs. 300 at Rs. 100 per mile, the total annual outlay may be taken at Rs. 800 which is considerably less than the interest on the probable cost of acquisition (Rs. 2,680).

7. In these circumstances, I doubt the advisability of acquiring the present houses and sites in preference to maintaining the old bank up to its former section.

8. The villagers in their petitions ask that the old bank should be raised and widened so as to equal the new bank in section. This is, however, quite out of the question.

9. I request that the Board may be pleased to obtain the early orders of Government on the subject.

Resolution—Mis. No. 2827, dated 20th June 1896.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. In the circumstances set forth in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Collector's letter, the Board considers it impracticable to give effect to the Chief Engineer's suggestion to grant new village-sites to the villagers concerned (*vide* endorsement of Government, Revenue Department, Mis. No. 1719, dated 4th May 1896).

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. C. C. CARR,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with three enclosures and letter in original (to be returned).

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Mis. No. 2988, dated 1st July 1896:—

Read—the following letter from A. W. B. HIGGENS, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated 26th June 1896, Ref. C. on Cur. No. 395-G.B.Gl.:—

In continuation of my letter, Ref A. on Cur. No. 395-G.B.Gl., dated 11th June 1896, I have the honour to recommend, in connection with paragraph 12 of the petition of the villagers that, in case it should be decided to restore the old bank and

leave the villages where they now are, a foot bridge for men and cattle might be built over the north main channel immediately to the north of Varadharajapuram village. This would provide the villagers with a means of escape in times of heavy flood, and would be of considerable use at all times when there might be water in the channel.

2. I do not know what the cost would be, but imagine that it would not exceed Rs. 2,000. This sum, with the interest thereon, spread over the term of years that the bridge might be expected to last, would not greatly affect the calculations made in my letter.

3. I regret that I omitted to make this recommendation in my former letter.

Resolution—Mis. No. 2988, dated 1st July 1896.

Submitted to Government, in continuation of Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 2827, dated 20th June 1896.

2. The Board has, in the above Proceedings, supported the Collector's recommendation that the villages should be allowed to remain where they are.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. C. C. CARR,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with letter to be returned.

Read—endorsement of Government, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, dated 14th July 1896, No. 751-D.

Abstract.—Transferring petition from Joseph Satyanadar on behalf of the inhabitants of certain villages, Tinnevelly district, praying that orders may be issued for the repairing, &c., of the bank of the Tambraparni river, &c.

Read—endorsement of the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, dated 31st October 1896.

Abstract.—Transferring two petitions, dated 26th and 30th October 1896, respectively, from Mr. Joseph Satyanadar, Vepery, on behalf of certain inhabitants of Tinnevelly district, and a telegram, dated 30th October 1896, from the latter praying for an interview with His Excellency the Governor in connection with the damages caused by the Tambraparni floods and asking the petitioners to represent their grievances to him.

Read—letter from K. PAKKEERI MOHIDEEN SAHIB and others, inhabitants of Tinnevelly district (now living in Madras), dated 30th October 1896.

Abstract.—Praying for an interview with His Excellency the Governor in connection with the damages caused by the Tambraparni floods.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Mis. No. 5069, dated 12th November 1896 :—

Read—Official Memorandum from Government, Revenue Department, No. 113, dated 27th July 1896, and reference thereon, dated 3rd August 1896.

Read—G.O., R. No. 1594, Revenue, dated 13th August 1896.

Read—the following letter from A. W. B. HIGGENS, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Surandai, 20th October 1896, Ref. G. on Cur. No. 395-G.B. Gl. :—

Adverting to Board's reference on Government Register No. 1587 of 1896, dated 3rd August 1896, I have the honour to submit herewith a plan showing the position of the villages affected by the flood of December 1895 and of the new village-sites selected.

2. The present sites between the old and new flood banks are marked in dark-green and are denoted by letters A to I. The new sites selected north of the channel are marked red and are denoted by corresponding letters. A statement is also enclosed showing the extent, assessment and other particulars of the new sites.

3. *Situation.*—The sites selected are not as convenient and suitable as they were at first believed to be. They are not altogether free from danger from flood. In December last these sites, though they consist of "dry" lands and are in general somewhat above the level of the surrounding country, were in several cases flooded owing to breaches in the north main channel and breaches in the Perur and Srivaikuntam tanks which are about a mile north of the sites, and it is reported that some houses were destroyed in the nattams close to some of the sites. North of the sites are wet lands which were also under water during the flood. Some of the fields selected are fully stocked with palmyrahs; but this point is no real objection as it only affects the cost of acquisition. Survey No. 1073 included in site B. is thrashing floor and the ryots of Srivaikuntam object to its acquisition on the ground that there is no other thrashing floor available for thrashing paddy from a very large extent of wet land in the locality.

4. *Water-supply.*—The people now obtain their drinking-water supply from the river and from the north main channel and the latter will be the only source of supply reasonably accessible from the new sites. The channel will be dry for about two months in the year, but temporary wells can be sunk in the bed of the channel.

5. *Communications.*—There are nine foot-paths which connect the sites and lands north of the channel with those on the south. There is a cart-track from the river passing close by the present site E, which crosses the north main channel and meets the road from Srivaikuntam to Perur at a point 1 mile north of the channel. This cart-track is connected with Srivaikuntam by another cart-track running south of the north main channel. It is also connected with Appankoil by a cart-track along the river bank. Most of the present sites are near one or other of these cart-tracks or are connected with them by other cart-tracks. The new sites are not, however, so advantageously situated. There is no bridge over the channel except the one east of Appankoil, and it is said that the channel is not fordable when it is more than half full. The residents of the proposed sites will apparently find considerable difficulty in going to their fields or the temples which are situated south of the channel. For such purposes, they must, when the channel is not fordable, go round by the cart-track which enters Srivaikuntam town near the head-sluice of the channel or by the Appankoil bridge. The new sites A, B and C, D, E are about $\frac{1}{2}$, $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, respectively, from the eastern end of Srivaikuntam town and the last site is nearly half a mile from the cart-track east of it. Sites F and G, H are about $1\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, respectively, from the cart-track above referred to. Site I is close to Sivaramamangalam, a large village.

6. In conclusion, I beg to remind Government of the remark made in paragraph 4 of my letter, Ref. A. on C. No. 395-G. B. Gl., dated 11th June 1896, regarding the extreme unwillingness of the inhabitants of the affected villages to leave their homes.

Resolution—Mis. No. 5069, dated 12th November 1896.

The Collector's report read above will be submitted to Government with reference to its Official Memorandum, dated 27th July 1896, No. 113.

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Official Memorandum, the Board begs to state that the suggestion to grant new village-sites was considered impracticable, because the Collector had pointed out that the villagers were not willing to leave

their old habitations. The Government would thus be forced to acquire the sites under the Land Acquisition Act, and it was reported that the cost of such acquisition would very greatly exceed the cost of maintaining the old flood bank at its former section.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. C. C. CARR,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with a letter, statement and sketch and
the papers received with G.O., No. 1594,
dated 13th August 1896.

Order—No. 72, Revenue, dated 5th February 1897.

Miscellaneous.

During the high floods in the Tambraparni in December 1895, certain villages below the Srivaikuntam anicut between the old flood bank and the new, which is also the bank of the north main channel, were submerged and much damage was done. The inhabitants of these villages request that the old flood bank may be restored and raised to the height and strength of the bank on the other side of the river. They urge that, if this is done, their bank will never be breached nor their villages flooded as they have been in the past.

2. The Government has given the question its very careful consideration, but does not see its way to complying with the petitioner's request. The carrying out of their proposal will make the river too narrow at the place and lead to more frequent breaches than at present. The tract enclosed by the river and the channel must therefore be always liable to flooding.

3. Such being the case, the danger to life and most of the danger to property will be obviated if the inhabitants will move to new sites outside the enclosed tract and on the other side of the channel. It appears, however, that they are not prepared to accept this arrangement and that they prefer to bear the risk and to remain where they are. This is to be regretted. The least objectionable sites should, however, be acquired and kept in readiness, so that in case another flood comes, the people or at least some of them may be induced to move thereto. At all events, the site will serve as a place of refuge in times of danger.

4. The Government has also considered a proposal to construct a new bund between the old and new banks, but has to give it up. In the first place it will not benefit the richest and most populous part of the tract near Appankoil. It would further involve a great and probably a useless expenditure, as the soil is of extremely bad quality and consists in some places of pure sand.

5. The Government is of opinion that in addition to providing places of refuge north of the channel, bridges across it should be constructed. This point will be considered in the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Petitioners.

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.
60 Co, 16-2.

Order thereon 1st 29th Jan 19th March 1897
Communicated to the Supt Engineer, Sixth circle, who will, in consultation with the collector of Tinnevelly select sites and submit estimates for the bridges referred to in para 5.
(True Extract)

J. Thiruvenkatachari
Under Secretary
Irgn: Brch

To Chief Engr: for Irrgn:
The Revenue Department. ✓
„ Supt Engineer. VI. Circle

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Read again G.O., No. dated 189

Current No.

Enclosures to C. No.

Order of Government	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Letter of Government							
Agreement with ditto							
Papers not filed up, being meant for despatch in original.							

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