

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 Department.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Government {1899} of Madras. PUBLIC WORKS.

Curran N^o 1198

Recd. 17/2 }
Regd. 17/2 } 1899.

Enclosures

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G.O., No. 346 W., 4th February 1899.



FEBRUARY.

G.O. No. 820 of 23rd Feb 1899.

Communicated to the
Board of Revenue and the
Met. Reporter to the Govt of
Madras.

12 To the B^d of Rev (Rev. Secy)
4 " Met. Reporter to the Govt of M

Storm and Flood Warnings

Directing the officers of the Madras Government to whom — are furnished, to forward annually to the Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India a brief return of the warnings received during the past year, and to submit, when necessary, special reports.

20-2-99

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ—the following paper:—

From T. W. HOLDERNESS, Esq., c.s.i., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Meteorology), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Simla, 9th November 1898, Circular No. 26—35-3.

I am directed to address you with reference to the present system of warnings for storms and floods in India.

2. The system has now been in operation for many years, and work is carried on continuously by two officers—one at Simla and the other at Calcutta. The nature of their duties prevents them from acquainting themselves by actual inspection with local conditions, the knowledge of which might enable them to modify their warnings whether by telegram or by signals and so render the warnings as effective as is possible in the present state of meteorological knowledge. Moreover, apart from the inherent difficulties of the work, the warning officers in India are at a peculiar disadvantage when compared with similar officers in countries such as England and the United States, owing to the absence of criticism from an interested and intelligent public, which in those countries finds prompt expression in the newspapers on the occasion of any failure to warn properly.

3. The only kind of criticism which appears to be possible in India, is that of officers and others to whom the warnings are forwarded. These are, or should be, able in all cases to judge fairly as to whether the warnings they receive are satisfactory and effective, and the Meteorological Department is anxious to avail itself of such assistance as they can afford. Warnings are sent to:—

- (1) Port authorities—of storms;
- (2) Railway, Irrigation, District and other Public Works Department officers—of floods, etc.
- (3) Military authorities in command of expeditions on the North-West Frontier—giving early information of change of weather;
- (4) Private firms.

The last two, (3) and (4), invariably acknowledge the utility of the work and occasionally make suggestions for the improvement of the system. In the case of (1) and (2) the authorities accept the information and warnings of the department without criticism, suggestion or acknowledgment, and the Meteorological Department is consequently without positive information as to whether the warnings are satisfactory and timely, or whether any changes could be made which would render them more effective.

4. It is now proposed that every officer to whom storm or flood warnings are issued should, in the month of January of each year, or, in the case of military expeditions, at the close of the campaign, forward to the Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India a brief return of the warnings received during the past year and should more especially report—

- (1) whether the warning telegrams were rapidly transmitted and delivered by the Telegraph Department;
- (2) whether the warnings were timely and satisfactory in every respect, and if not in what points they were defective;
- (3) whether any changes might be made in the system which would make the warnings more useful and effective.

Any information with respect to local conditions or requirements which might enable the warning officers to give more effective warning should also be given. This annual return will ordinarily be sufficient; but in the case of severe and destructive cyclones, or in any other case in which the officer to whom a warning has been sent considers it desirable that an immediate report with reference to any of the points noted above should be submitted, a special return should be forwarded direct to the Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India showing whether full and timely warning has or has not been given.

5. The Government of India trust, therefore, that the Government of Madras will co-operate in the matter and cause the necessary steps to be taken to furnish the Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India with the information indicated, which it is hoped may lead to increased accuracy and efficiency in the storm and flood warnings issued in India.

Mis. No. 4707, Revenue.

Transferred to the Public Works Department.

Fort St. George,
1st December 1898.

(Signed) N. E. MARJORIBANKS,
Ag. Under Secy. to Government.

ORDER—No. 346 W., dated 4th February 1899.

The officers of the Madras Government to whom storm and flood warnings are furnished will, as desired by the Government of India, furnish the Meteorological Reporter with the desired information annually and will also submit, when necessary, the special reports required under paragraph 4 of the letter read above.

2. So far as can be ascertained, the following are the only officers connected with the Public Works Department to whom flood warnings are sent:—

- (1) Executive Engineer, Gódavari Eastern division, Dowlaishweram.
- (2) Executive Engineer, No. 7 District, South Indian Railway, Vellore.

Storm warnings are communicated to officers of the Port Department and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, as specified in the Cyclone Code.

(True Extract.)

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Presidency Port Officer.
" Irrigation Branch.
" Railway Branch.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.

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Exd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.

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ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

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STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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