

Marine (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 237 *Mar*

DATED 15 *March 1897*

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Telegraph lines to the Observatory: Pro.
XX Public Dept. sanctioning the proposed ^{re-} ~~arrangement~~ ^{from the Port of} ~~arrangement~~ for the maintenance of the ~~arrangement~~ ^{arrangement} involving an extra expenditure of Rs. 212, of which Rs. 100 will be contributed from Port Funds, Comptd to the P. D. Officer

BACK PAPERS.

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FURTHER PAPERS.

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	2906	897			593	marine	2-7-97

Marine (1897) Department

Current Number: 362

Government {1897} of Madras.

PUBLIC.

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Recd. 11-3

1897.

Enclosures

Regd. 11-3

Spare copies 5

G.O., No. 186, 26th February 1897.

Communicated
to the Presidency Port
Office

FEBRUARY.

The S.P.O. 11/3/97
L.S. with 10/c

2 16/3/97

Telegraph Lines to the Observatory.

Sanctioning the proposed arrangement for the maintenance of the — involving an extra expenditure of Rs. 212, of which Rs. 100 will be contributed from Port funds.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

From C. MICHIE SMITH, Esq., Government Astronomer, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 9th December 1896, No. 248.

I have the honour to submit the following particulars with reference to the entry of Rs. 300 in my budget estimate for 1897-98 for rent for telegraph lines.

2. In my letter No. 74, dated 4th November 1891, I pointed out that the lines from the Observatory to the time-gun, Marine office, &c., were not under the charge of the Telegraph department and suggested that steps might be taken to have them handed over. After communicating with the Telegraph authorities who stated that the annual charge would be Rs. 1,020, the following order was passed:—

"The Government is of opinion that existing arrangements may continue at any rate for the present [G.O., No. 96 (Public), dated 10th February 1892]."

3. Since then the unsatisfactory condition of affairs has again and again been felt both by the Telegraph officers and myself. The line is, of course, deteriorating and, as it is subject to no regular inspection or repair, it is probable that before long it will become inefficient. I accordingly some time ago re-opened the question with the Superintendent of Telegraphs and pointed out that the proposed charge of Rs. 1,020 was excessive inasmuch as two of the lines charged for—the clock line and the semaphore line as far as the Telegraph office—were used largely for giving time signals to the Telegraph office.

4. The whole matter has been very carefully gone into and the Telegraph department is now prepared to agree to the following terms:—

(1) To take over the material belonging to the Government of Madras now standing on the lines and to credit them with Rs. 450, being three-fourths of the cost price.

(2) To supply the lines required at the usual rate of Rs. 20 per half mile, in all Rs. 320 per annum.

5. The small value of materials noted above is due to the circumstance that for a considerable part of the distance the wires are carried on posts belonging to the Telegraph department and that a large part of the wire and of the insulators already are the property of the department.

6. The charge of Rs. 320 includes the line to Orr's clock, at present paid by Government and not charged to the Observatory, with loops into the Egmore station of the South Indian Railway and the Central station of the Madras Railway to enable time signals to be sent along these lines. No charge is made for the lines to the Telegraph office.

7. As Government has been paying Rs. 216 per annum for the wire to Orr's clock, the additional cost is only Rs. 104 and the advantages of having the line regularly inspected and repaired, not as a matter of favour but as a right, are so great that I trust Government will sanction the agreement.

8. Of the total cost of Rs. 320 the amount to be debited to the Observatory is Rs. 212.

9. While the matter is under discussion it may not be out of place to consider whether or not the Port Funds should be debited with part of the expenditure in connection with the time service. In Bombay the whole expense of the time service is borne by the Port Funds which pay Rs. 295 per mensem for this service. In Madras the line from the Observatory to the Port office was, I believe, originally constructed at the cost of the Port, but no charge of any kind is made for maintenance, even the amount paid to the Marine signaller in charge of the Semaphore being debited to the Observatory.

10. Copies of letters from the Director-General of Telegraphs and the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras Division, are enclosed.

ENCLOSURES.

From the Director-General of Telegraphs, to the Superintendent, Madras Division, dated Calcutta, 1st December 1896, No. 6438.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 6180, dated the 17th of November 1896, I have the honour to inform you that I am prepared to take over the material belonging to the Government of Madras now standing on the lines used by the Government Astronomer and to credit them with Rs. 450—vide statement A attached,*—which is three-fourths of the original value according to our rate list.

* Not forwarded.

2. I am also prepared to supply the lines required by the Government Astronomer as per statement B, at our usual private line rates, viz., Rs. 20 per half-mile unit, and amounting at present as shown to Rs. 320 per annum—all apparatus and instruments remaining as now the property and in the charge of the Madras Government.

From the Superintendent, Madras Division, to the Government Astronomer, dated 8th December 1896, No. 6725.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 179, dated the 3rd of September 1896, I have the honour to attach a copy of letter No. 6438, dated 1st instant, with two enclosures from the Director-General of Telegraphs to my address for your information.

2. You will notice that the Director-General is prepared to take over all the material on your lines for a certain sum to be paid over as soon as his proposals are accepted and that he will then maintain the lines in a proper state of efficiency at the usual charges for rent. The figure quoted as annual rent includes the new connections you desire to have installed on the existing wire to Messrs. Orr's clock, viz., a loop to the clocks in the South Indian and Madras Railway stations. The connection from the Observatory to this office for the transmission of the daily time signal you will see is not to be charged for.

3. I shall be very glad if the Government of Madras accepts these proposals, as I consider it most desirable that the lines in question should receive careful attention and regular maintenance (which they have never had, I believe, since the date of their erection) and that their upkeep should be definitely placed in responsible hands.

No. 186, PUBLIC, 26TH FEBRUARY 1897.

STATEMENT showing calculation of charges for rent to be recovered from the Madras Government for the system of lines rented to the Government Astronomer, Madras (from 1st January 1897).

Circuits.	Distance in miles.	Number of telephones.	Indicators on Switch.	Date office opened.	Remarks.
1. From the Observatory to Messrs. Orr and Co.'s clock, with loop into platform clock in South Indian Railway, Central Station, and loop into platform clock in Madras Railway Central Station.	4.17	..	..	..	Rent per annum, 7.95 miles = 16 units = 16 x 20 = Rs. 320. (Instruments neither supplied nor maintained by the Telegraph Department.)
2. From the Observatory to the Fort Gun ..	3.41	..	..	..	
3. From the Observatory to the Marine office (excluding the line from the Observatory to the Madras Central office)*.	0.37	..	..	..	
Total ..	7.95	..	..	..	

* No rent charged for this wire from the Observatory as far as the Telegraph office, because it is used for giving time to the Telegraph Department.

No. 2697.
Referred to the Marine Department for favour of remarks with advertence to paragraph 9 of the Government Astronomer's letter.
(By order.)

19th December 1896.

(Signed) A. HANNAY,
Ag. Assistant Secretary.

No. 673 E., Marine.

Referred to the Presidency Port Officer for favour of remarks.
(Signed)

23rd December 1896.

D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, Col., R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

From Commander H. A. STREET, R.I.M., Presidency Port Officer, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Marine Department, dated 28th January 1897, No. 23 G.

With reference to endorsement (herewith returned) of Government, No. 673 E., Marine, dated 23rd December 1896, referring to me, for remarks, letter from the Government Astronomer regarding payment of rent for telegraph lines from the Madras Observatory, I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of Government, that I have no objection to a contribution being made out of the Madras Port funds for the use of the telegraph line working the semaphore in the Port office. I have ascertained from the Government Astronomer that Rs. 100 (one hundred) per annum is a fair contribution by Port funds which will go towards the payment of Rs. 212 by the Observatory, and I concur in his opinion.

Endorsement No. 79 E., Marine.

Approved and transferred to the Public Department with reference to the endorsement in that department, No. 2697, dated 19th December 1896.

MADRAS,
4th February 1897.
To the Public Department, with papers returned.

(Signed) D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, Col., R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

No. 186, PUBLIC, 26TH FEBRUARY 1897.

ORDER—No. 186, Public, dated 26th February 1897.

The proposed arrangement involving an extra expenditure of Rs. 212, of which Rs. 100 will be contributed from Port funds, is sanctioned.

2. It is understood that the charge for the line to Messrs. Orr's clock will, in future, be Rs. 108 only.

(True Extract.)

Adhupph.

for Chief Secretary.

To the Government Astronomer.
" the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras.
" Messrs. P. Orr and Sons.
" the Marine Department.
" the Financial Department.
" the Accountant-General.

19th December 1896.
Referred to the Presidency Port Officer for favour of remarks.
(Signed) D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, Col., R.E.,
Secretary to Government.
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(Signed) D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, Col., R.E.,
Secretary to Government.
MADRAS,
4th February 1897.
To the Public Department, with papers returned.
Exd. T. K. Narayana Iyengar.