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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <u>3843</u>	Press ~~Mis.~~
<u>44-45</u>	
Dated <u>4-12-18</u> <u>66.</u>	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

16

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th December 1866.*

No. 44. Read the following letter from the Government Astronomer, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 17th November 1866 :—

1. I have the honor to request that you will favor me with your decision upon a few points long at issue between the Superintendent of the Public Works Stores and Workshops and myself.

2. Between the months of July and October 1865, some comparatively trifling works were done for the Observatory in Mr. Moncrieff's department, consisting of the cleaning up of a small portable transit instrument by Dolland, and of an ordinary four feet telescope. Some portions of the counterpoise machinery of the old Equatoreal by Lerebours and Secretan were at the same time taken away by Mr. Doderet, which were subsequently returned without any visible alteration or repair, and have never been further attended to up to the present time. For these insignificant and incomplete services a bill, amounting to *Rupees* 223-7-5, was forwarded to me on 15th November 1865, the most exorbitant overcharge conceivable. In contrast therewith, in June of the current year, Mr. Doderet rendered valuable and important aid in setting up the new large Equatoreal by Messrs. Troughton and Simms, which occupied him, an apprentice and two native workmen, several days, the bill for which was only *Rupees* 57-3 10. I have not the slightest hesitation in asserting that the labor and materials, apart from the relative importance of the works, in the latter case, must have been four or five times as much as in the former instance complained of; I therefore request that Mr. Moncrieff may be desired to specify the separate items for which he has thus overcharged the Observatory, or that a more reasonable bill may be made out, if indeed any charge at all should be made between two Government departments when no materials are wanted or employed, as in the small matters under consideration. In former transactions, when Mr. Doderet's valuable aid has been granted to the Observatory for works of real importance, involving considerable time, skill, and labor, no dispute of the kind has ever arisen; and I attribute that now in question solely to the Superintendent, who was evidently then endeavouring to make his department appear remunerative at the expense of any other which might have the misfortune to require his assistance.

3. Most of the works undertaken by Mr. Doderet for the Observatory of late years have been *nearly* but not quite completed; while in some cases the want of such completion has occasioned the loss of useful observations, and much inconvenience to myself. The Transit Circle, set up in 1862, still wants a pair of stout iron supports, as protection in case of the breaking of the rods and levers which bear its heavy counterpoises. Such an accident occurred at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, in 1863, and must of necessity happen to the Madras Observatory also sooner or later; but with the proper supports would occasion no serious damage, while without them the complete destruction of two microscopes and micrometers would be inevitable, and, indeed, the observer is in actual danger whenever the circle is being read off. The Collimators were temporarily supplied with simple cross wire diaphragms, and have been used so up to this time, though others, far better, could be constructed by Mr. Doderet in an hour or two at most. The old Equatoreal by Lerebours and Secretan has never had its counterpoise

arrangements seen to; while the lowest power eye-piece and a reticle to fit the same for rapid star mapping have been nominally in hand, and anxiously awaited for two or three years past. The small universal Equatoreal, cleaned and repaired by Mr. Doderet in 1863, has never been supplied with its reticle, without which it is wholly useless for the Southern Celestial survey, the express purpose for which Government sanctioned its purchase. The new large Equatoreal by Messrs. Troughton and Simms, set up in June last, is still unfinished. And, lastly, there is a wind vane or Anemoscope, uselessly mis-placed on the Office roof, which would be very valuable if erected by the side of the large Anemograph on the roof of the Astronomer's quarters, so as to work its dial inside a stair-case window below. The Executive Engineer is ready to fix its brackets and bearings when Mr. Doderet can spare time to lengthen the rod, and make other easy but necessary alterations. When this is done the unsightly scaffolding which has disfigured my house since May 1862 can be removed, but it must remain until the instrument is erected in its new place. If Mr. Doderet may be instructed to attend to this last want, and to complete all the above named *nearly* finished works straight off, with as little delay as possible, it will be a great relief and convenience to me, and I will in future avoid troubling him, and interrupting his ordinary duties whenever his aid can be dispensed with.

4. In consequence of the very considerable recent additions to the instrumental resources of the Observatory, regular periodical cleaning, oiling, and minor repairs have become a part of the routine of the establishment, and although I have hitherto done all such myself, it is certainly not a duty contemplated by or proper for the Astronomer to have to accomplish with his own hands. All modern Observatories throughout Europe and America either contract with some local optician or are equipped with a regular workshop, under the superintendence of an experienced workman, to see to all such wants immediately they arise. For instance: the Transit Circle and Equatorials require their Ys, pivots, micrometer screws, slow motions, and the driving clocks of the latter to be examined and cleaned at least twice a year. In this climate, I need scarcely remark, that there is far greater need for such regular inspection than elsewhere. Object glasses, unless removed and cleaned annually, deteriorate and decompose much more rapidly in India than at home. The Anemograph requires to be completely taken down and cleaned quarterly, or else it works dry and ceases to record accurately. To meet all such wants it appears to me advisable that Mr. Doderet should be charged with the periodical cleaning of the instruments of the Government Observatory, and I do not consider that such regular attendance would occupy him, on the average, above four days per year, while on the other hand, the want of such attention too frequently involves serious wear, the repair of which demands far more time and trouble in the way of casual work. This would be obviated if my suggestion were complied with, and a quarterly examination of the instruments made, as a matter of course. To contract with Messrs. Orr and Sons would certainly be more expensive to Government, but unless Mr. Doderet can be permitted to undertake the proposed small but important addition to his current duties some arrangement of the kind must be made, as my ever increasing scientific labors, and I regret to add my fail-

ing health must preclude me from carrying on such needless additions to my own work.

5. In reference to the Observatory lathe, now for nearly twelve months past on loan to the Public Works Workshops, I regret to have occasion to appeal to you to ensure its due return to my department. It was purchased by express permission of Government, by my predecessor Major Tennant, for above *Rupees* 1,000, and fear I did wrong ever to allow it to pass out of the Observatory Stores without formal sanction for its loan. I trusted however to Mr. Moncrieff's promise to return it soon, and was much deceived thereby! A most unjustifiable demand was, in the first instance, made by Mr. Moncrieff in a letter dated 8th March 1865, calling upon me for a return of all machinery in the Observatory Stores for registration in the Public Works list. My reply was to the effect, that the Government Astronomer held sole charge of the Observatory stores, independently of the Public Works or any other department in the Presidency, and that as the returns of property entrusted to my care were made to the Accountant General only, I could on no account comply with his request. Only two days later he repeated his very unreasonable and improper demand, in a letter dated 10th March 1865, in which he expressly enquired after the lathe in question, to obtain possession of which was evidently all his aim at that time. The correspondence herewith dropped, but in a demi-official note, dated 14th September 1865, Mr. Moncrieff requested the use of the Observatory lathe, as a special favor, until the arrival of one by Holtzaffel, expected from England early in the present year. To this note I replied, acceding to his request, if made in the form of an official application. This followed on the 5th October, and a receipt was promised for the lathe when lent, while its return was distinctly but verbally understood for not later than the February following. Mr. Doderet himself superintended its removal to the Public Works Workshops, and at the same time selected a number of chucks, some slide rests, and other appliances to render it available for his wants. The promised receipt was never given! The lathe was detained after the arrival of the one expected from England, contrary to the condition upon which alone it was ever lent, and it is still in the Public Works Workshops. I therefore request that the official receipt, which ought to have been given in October 1865, may be at once supplied to me; and that the lathe itself may be returned as early as possible, so as not to interrupt any special work Mr. Doderet may have in hand for which it may be in present use.

ORDER THEREON, 4th December 1866, No. 3,843.

No. 45.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 9.

1. Upon examination of the two bills alluded to by the Government Astronomer in the second paragraph of the foregoing letter it is clear that the small amount of the second bill is due to the fact that no charge was made in it for the labor of the Workshop permanent establishment which had been employed upon the work then executed for the Observatory, while the first bill included a large item under this head. Each bill was prepared according to the rules in force when the respective charges were

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department
4th December 1866.

incurred, and the Observatory cannot now be released from the claims made upon it by the Superintendent of the Workshops.

2. Mr. Moncrieff will instruct the Mathematical Instrument maker to devote to the completion of the works specified in the third paragraph of Mr. Pogson's letter as much of his time and attention as he can spare without neglecting his other duties. Arrangements will also be made for allowing Mr. Doderet to visit the Observatory periodically, at convenient times, for the purpose of cleaning and oiling the instruments and executing such minor repairs as may be necessary.

3. If the lathe alluded to in the last paragraph of Mr. Pogson's letter be required for use at the Observatory, it will be delivered to that gentleman upon making application to the Superintendent of the Workshops. The Government understand, however, that this lathe has been chiefly used in executing work required for the Observatory.

* Public Department.

4. As General Storekeeper of Machinery, Mr. Moncrieff was directed in G.O.* dated the 11th February 1865, No. 171, to call upon all departments for returns of the machinery under their charge; and no exception can be made in favor of the Observatory.

5. The Government cannot dispose of this letter without expressing their regret at the tone of Mr. Pogson's observations regarding the General Superintendent of the Public Works Workshops.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Government Astronomer.

" Officer in charge of the Store Department.

" General Superintendent of the Public Works Stores and Workshops.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Madras Observatory. November 17th. 1866. —

From

The Government Astronomer

To

Colonel C. A. Orr

Secretary to Government P.W.D. —

Fort St George.

Sir, I have the honor to request that you will favor me with your decision upon a few points long at issue between the Superintendent of the Public Works Stores and Workshops and myself.

1st — Between the months of July and October 1865, ~~some~~ comparatively trifling works were done for the Observatory in Mr. Moncrieff's Department; consisting of the cleaning up of a small portable transit instrument, by Dollond, and of an ordinary four foot telescope. Some portions of the counterpoise machinery of the old Equatorial by Leebours and Secretan were at the same time taken away by Mr. Doderet, which were subsequently returned without any visible attrition or repair, and have never been further attended to up to the present time. — For these insignificant and incomplete services a bill, amounting to Rs 225 4 5, was forwarded to me on 15th November 1865; — the most exorbitant overcharge conceivable. — In contrast therewith, in June of the current year Mr. Doderet rendered valuable and important aid in setting up the new large Equatorial, by Messrs.roughton & Simms, which occupied him, an apprentice and two native workmen, several days, the bill for which was only Rs 54 3 10. — I have not the slightest hesitation in asserting that the labor and materials, apart from the relative importance of the works, in the latter case, must have been four or five times as much as in the former instance complained of, and I therefore request that Mr. Moncrieff may be desired to specify the separate items for which he has thus overcharged the Observatory, or that a more reasonable bill may be made out, if indeed any charge at all should be made between two Government Departments when no materials are wanted or employed as in the small matter under consideration. — In former transactions, when Mr. Doderet's valuable aid has been granted to the Observatory for works of real importance, involving considerable time skill and labor, no dispute of the kind has ever arisen; and I attribute that now in question solely to the Superintendent, who was evidently then endeavoring to make his Department appear unremunerative at the expense of any other which might have the misfortune to require his assistance.

2nd — Most of the works undertaken by Mr. Doderet for the Observatory of late years have been nearly but not quite completed; while in some cases the want of such completion has occasioned the loss of useful observations and much inconvenience to myself. — The Transit Circle, set up in 1862, still wants a pair of stout iron supports as protection in case of the breaking of the rods and levers which bear its heavy counterpoises. — Such an accident occurred at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich in 1863, and must of necessity happen to the Madras instrument also sooner or later, but with the proper supports would occasion no serious damage, while without them the complete destruction of two microscopes and micrometers would be inevitable, and indeed the observer is in actual danger whenever the Circle is being read off. — The Collimators were temporarily supplied with simple cross wire diaphragms and have been used so up to this time, though others, far better, could be constructed by Mr. Doderet.

in an hour or two at most. — The old Equatorial, by Leitch & Secretan, has never had its counterpoise arrangements seen to, while the lowest power eye-piece and a Reticle to fit the same for rapid star mapping, have been nominally in hand and anxiously awaited for two or three years past. The small Universal Equatorial cleaned and repaired by Mr. Dodderet in 1863 has never been supplied with its reticle, without which it is wholly useless for the Southern Celestial Survey, the express purpose for which Government sanctioned its purchase. — The new large Equatorial by Messrs. Fraughton & Lissner, set up in June last, is still unfinished. — And lastly, there is a wind vane or Anemoscope, uselessly misplaced on the Office roof, which would be very valuable if erected by the side of the large Astronomer's Sextant, as to work into, climb inside, and hangings when Mr. Dodderet can spare time to lengthen the rod and make other easy but necessary alterations. When this is done the unsightly scaffolding which has disfigured my house since May 1862 can be removed, but it must remain until the instrument is erected in its new place. If Mr. Dodderet may be instructed to attend to this last want, and to complete all the above matters nearly finished, works straight off, with as little delay as possible, it will be a great relief and convenience to me, and I will in future avoid troubling him and interrupting his ordinary duties whenever his aid can be dispensed with.

3rd. — In consequence of the very considerable recent additions to the instrumental resources of the Observatory, regular periodical cleaning, oiling, and minor repairs, have become a part of the routine of the Establishment, and although I have hitherto done all such myself it is certainly not a duty contemplated by or proper for the Astronomer to have to accomplish with his own hands. — All modern Observatories throughout Europe and America either contract with some local optician or are equipped with a regular workshop, under the superintendence of an experienced workman, to see to all such wants immediately they arise. — For instance: — the Transit Circle and Equatorials require their Ys, pivots, micrometer screws, slow motions, and the driving clocks of the latter, to be examined and cleaned at least twice a year. — In this climate, I need scarcely remark, that there is far greater need for such regular inspection than elsewhere. Object glasses, unless removed and cleaned annually, deteriorate and decompose much more rapidly in India than at home. — The Anemograph requires to be completely taken down and cleaned quarterly, or else it works dry and ceases to record accurately. — To meet all such wants it appears to me advisable that Mr. Dodderet should be charged with the periodical cleaning of the instruments of the Government Observatory, and I do not consider that such regular attendance would occupy him on the average above four days per year, while on the other hand, the want of such attention too frequently involves serious wear, the repair of which demands far more time and trouble in the way of casual work. — This would be obviated if my suggestion were complied with, and a quarterly examination of the instruments made, as a matter of course. — To contract with Messrs. Orr & Sons would certainly be more expensive to Government, but unless Mr. Dodderet can be permitted to undertake the proposed small but important addition to his current duties

some arrangement of the kind must be made, as my ever increasing scientific labors and I regret to add my failing health, must preclude me from carrying on such needless additions to my own work.

4th. — In reference to the Observatory lathe, now for nearly twelve months past on loan to the Public Works Workshops, I regret to have occasion to appeal to you to ensure its due return to my Department. — It was purchased by express permission of Government, by my predecessor Major Tennant, for about Rs 1000, and I fear I did wrong ever to allow it to pass out of the Observatory Stores without formal sanction for its loan. — I trusted however to Mr. Moncrieff's promise to return it soon, and was much deceived thereby! — A most unjustifiable demand was, in the first instance, made by Mr. Moncrieff in a letter dated 8th March 1865, calling upon me for a return of all machinery in the Observatory Stores for registration in the P. W. list. — My reply was to the effect, that the Government Astronomer held sole charge of the Observatory Stores, independently of the Public Works or any other Department in the Presidency, and that as the returns of property entrusted to my care were made to the Accountant General only, I could on no account comply with his request. — Only two days later he repeated his very unreasonable and improper demand, in a letter dated 10th March 1865, in which he expressly enquired after the lathe in question, to obtain possession of which was evidently all his aim at that time. — The correspondence herewith dropped, but in a demi-official note, dated 14th September 1865, Mr. Moncrieff again requested the use of the Observatory lathe, as a special favor, until the arrival of one by Holtzaffel, expected from England early in the present year. — To this note I replied, according to his request, if made in the form of an official application. — This followed on the 5th October, and a receipt was promised for the lathe when sent, while its return was distinctly but verbally understood for not later than the February following. — Mr. Dodderet himself superintended its removal to the P. W. Workshops, and at the same time selected a number of shanks, some slide rests, and other appliances to render it available for his wants. — The promised receipt was never given! — The lathe was detained after the arrival of the one expected from England, contrary to the condition upon which alone it was ever lent, and it is still in the P. W. Workshops. — I therefore request that the official Receipt, which ought to have been given in October 1865, may be at once supplied to me, and that the lathe itself may be returned as early as possible, so as not to interrupt any special work Mr. Dodderet may have in hand for which it may be in present use. —

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient Servant

M R Pogson

Government Astronomer.

Public Works Department
 384 No. 3843
 Proceedings of the Madras Government
 Under date the 15th Decr 1866

Read the following
 From The Government Astronomer
 (H.E. No. - dated 17th Novr 1866)

Upon examination of
 the two bills alluded to
 by the Government
 Astronomer in the second
 paragraph of the fore-
 going letter it is clear
 that the small amount
 of the second bill is -
 due to the fact that no
 charge was made in
 it for the labour of the
 workshop permanent
 establishment which
 had been employed
 upon

JP

WOL

27th 1866 Decr 18
 P.O. of Govt. Secy. to Govt.
 4694

From
 the Government Astronomer

5. Extract of 27th Nov

Referring to Government P.M.D. -

Sent 27th Novr -

Madras Observatory. - Nov 17th. 1866.

Decr 19 -

Comparing of certain exchanges
 made by the Superintendent of P.M.D.
 and Workshops for copying work done in 1865.
 Regarding to some amount employed upon
 employed by the Astronomer as early as possible -
 suggesting the Astronomer's statement must
 be agreed to the Observatory staff, however
 by the staff of P.M.D. Staff & Workshops that must
 also acknowledge a statement as furnished,
 and suggesting, but Govt's instructions therefore.

No. 3843 - 4th Decr 1866 -

upon the work then executed for the Observatory, while the first bill included a large item under this head. Each bill was prepared according to the rules in force when the respective charges were incurred, and the Observatory cannot now be released from the claims made upon it by the Superintendent of the Workshops.

2. Mr. Moncrieff will instruct the Mathematical Instrument Maker to devote to the completion of the

66
the works specified in the third paragraph of Mr. Pogson's letter as much of his time and attention as he can spare without neglecting his other duties. Arrangements will also be made for allowing Mr. Doderet to visit the Observatory periodically, at convenient times, for the purpose of cleaning and oiling the instruments and executing such minor repairs as may be necessary.

3. If the Lathe alluded to in the last paragraph of Mr. Pogson's letter

letter be required for
use at the Observatory,
it will be delivered to
that gentleman upon
making application to
the Superintendent of
the workshops. The
Government under-
stand, however, that
this lathe has been
chiefly used in exe-
cuting work required
for the Observatory.

4. As Storekeeper of
Machinery, Mr. Mon-
crieff was directed in

L. O. dated the 11 Feb/65

Nº 171 to call upon
all departments for
returns of the machinery

* Public Dept.

under their charge⁷⁰;
and no exception can
be made in fa-
vour of the Observatory.

5. The Government
cannot dispose of
this letter without ex-
pressing their regret
~~as the Comr. Mr. Pagano should~~
~~that Mr. Pagano should~~
~~expressing. The~~
~~have allowed himself~~
~~to assume the~~
~~Public work workshop~~
~~and unfounded im-~~
~~putations against the~~
~~Superintendent of the~~
~~Workshops.~~

The Government Astronomers ✓
" Officer in charge of the Store Dept ✓
" General Dept of the P.O. Stores and
Workshops ✓

[Signature]

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Recd 5 December

No 1066 Depo

Pro: of Govt for Beer

No 3043

Pro: of the Marine Corp

Of 4th Decr 86.

Paying orders on
a letter from the Govt
Astronomer, objecting
to the amount of bills for
work done for the Obser-
vatory forwarded to him
by the Superintendent
of the P. W. Stores and
Workshops.

No 44-45

inquire
the