M.R.O. 1—77,008—3-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 3

(2) Date of repair 3 / 84

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

1.6 Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2677 Press
~~Mis.~~
380-81

Dated 24 . 10 1871 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 24th October 1871.

No. 380. Read the following Endorsement of the Revenue Department:—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th September 1871, No. 4,014.

From the Collector of Kurnool, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 25th August 1871, No. 278.

I HAVE the honour to lay before the Board copies of the correspondence which has taken place between the Telegraph Department, proposing to give up Kurnool as a Telegraph Station, and myself.

1 Copy of letter from the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Bangalore Division, dated 21st August 1871, No. 520, with one enclosure.
1 Copy of letter from Collector, dated 25th August 1871, No. 643.

2. When Kurnool was given up as a Military Station, it was arranged that the Artillery Barracks in the Fort should be given over to the Telegraph Department for a station, whereby there would be a monthly saving of 50 Rupees, the rent of the house now used as the Telegraph Office.

3. This was during the beginning of January, and although it is now August that department has taken no steps that I am aware of to remove the station into the new premises allotted to it. The house-rent for the interval, nearly eight months, would probably have covered all the expenses necessary for the change of office and for the alterations required.

4. It appears to be the wish of that department that some official in my office may be instructed to signal, and that when such instructions have been received that the department should then desert Kurnool altogether.

The Board are aware that my office has not more clerks than it requires, and therefore one could not be spared to be used as a Telegraph Signaller. The house allotted for the Telegraph Office is about a mile and a half from my office, and great inconvenience would be caused thereby.

5. I do not think this Telegraph Office should be done away with simply on the ground of its receipts not covering its expenditure. The fact of this being the head-quarters of a Collector and Magistrate should be sufficient to show that Kurnool should be connected with the Government at the Presidency by means of a telegraph. Circumstances may arise in which it may be most important, for the information of the State, to carry on telegraphic correspondence with Bellary and Hyderabad in a Military point of view, and which would render the position of persons residing here absolutely dangerous if complete isolation from other districts existed.

In the Finance Department telegrams have to be sent from this Treasury at certain times to show the cash balances.

6. The Civil and Session Court, the Police Department, the Medical Department, and the Educational Department should certainly have the means of reporting matters when necessary, and receiving information and orders from Government by means of the telegraph.

7. The mercantile element is not very strong in Kurnool, but such as it is, there are matters, such as the fluctuation of prices, demand for goods, and such

like, which the merchants have got accustomed to communicate by the telegraph, to cut off this means of conveying information after being so long at their disposal would be a very great hardship.

8. Yearly, as the Kistna and Tungabudra rivers rise, frequent information has to be sent to the officer in charge of the anicut at Bezwada, and there is reason to believe that without this timely information regarding freshes the anicut may have received damage, and half the Kistna District be thrown out of cultivation, and great portions flooded. If it were for this information only there would be strong ground for not discontinuing the telegraph at this station.

9. I trust the Board will use every effort in their power to protect us from the loss of the Telegraph Office, which is absolutely necessary for the good of the State and the welfare of the inhabitants of the district.

10. There is no reason why the office should not be removed to the premises allotted, and the house-rent saved; but the opinion as regards the cost of the change will have, I imagine, to be obtained from the departments of the Telegraph and Public Works.

11. There should certainly be two Signallers at this station and a delivery peon, and though the receipts at the office do not cover the expenses, the reasons I have given are quite sufficient, I think, to show that it is worth the while of the Government to pay towards the continuance of the telegraph at this station.

12. I trust the whole subject may be placed before the Government.

From the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Bangalore Division, to the Collector of Kurnool, dated 21st August 1871, No. 520.

In consequence of the cost of the Telegraph Office at Kurnool greatly exceeding the income, and the receipts falling off instead of increasing, the Director-General of Telegraphs in India intimates that, unless some means can be discovered to balance the receipts and expenditure, it will be necessary to request the sanction of Government to close that office.

2. I have, therefore, the honour to request, in the event of your being desirous to retain the office at Kurnool, that you will be so good as to favour me with your opinion on the following extract from the Director-General's letter above referred to.

3. I may add that Kurnool having been abandoned as a Military Station, any interest this department may have in retaining an office there will be removed on the completion of the Railway to Hyderabad.

Extract from Director-General's letter No. 768-T., dated 9th August 1871.

5. I request you will be so good as to address the local authorities in this sense asking for temporary quarters for the office; and, for the future, proposing that one of the clerks, or some Government official now employed at Kurnool, should learn to signal with a view of undertaking the duty in addition to his own. That this will be extremely light will be seen from the number of messages transmitted, about fifty per mensem, not two daily. The person undertaking the work would receive a fee for each message, and the instrument would be placed in one of the public offices.

6. If there be no one available for instruction, inquiry should be made whether clerical work could be found for a Signaller of this department who would be temporarily transferred, and a portion of whose salary would be paid by the office employing him.

7. I am very undesirous of recommending the abolition of the office, but unless something be done to reduce the present heavy loss sustained no alternative will be open to me.

(Signed) A. CAPPEL,
Director of Traffic.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. C. DARLING,
Asst. Supdt. for Superintendent, Bangalore Division.

From the Collector of Kurnool, to the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Bangalore Division, dated 25th August 1871, No. 643.

I have the honour to inform you, with reference to your letter, dated 21st August 1871, No. 520, and its enclosure, that the Artillery Barracks situated in the fort was declared by Government, Public Department, in their Order, dated 15th December 1870, No. 1,638, as the building to be handed over for the use of the Telegraph Department. The Regiment left this district early in January, and the premises allotted have never been yet taken possession of by your department.

2. The house-rent paid for the present premises for the eight months, from January to August, would probably have covered all the expenses of the move.

3. I know of no Government servant who could be spared as a Signaller after instruction. I have none to spare from my office, and the inconvenience which would be caused by the distance of the allotted premises, being about a mile and a half from my office, would be sufficient of itself to prevent such a step being adopted as practicable.

4. There should be two Signallers and a distribution peon kept up in the Telegraph Office. It will never do for this important station, for a great number of reasons, to be bereft of a Telegraph Station, and I most earnestly trust no steps may be taken in this matter till I have laid the whole matter before Government through the Board of Revenue.

5. I do not see why the rented house should not be at once given up and the office changed to the premises allotted in the fort.

Submitted for the favourable consideration of Government.

2. The Board think it very necessary that a Telegraph Office should be maintained at Kurnool even at a pecuniary loss to Government.

3. The removal of the Regiment from Kurnool has left that part of the country quite unprotected in the event of disturbances at Hyderabad.

4. The Engineers in charge of the anicut in the Kistna at Bezoara rely greatly on the telegraphic reports they receive from Kurnool as to the state of the river during freshes, and more than once have been enabled to avert probable damage to the works by timely notice of coming freshes.

5. The establishment might be reduced to a minimum, but the extra work should not be imposed on the Collector's office.

6. Possibly the Postmaster might undertake it as in England.

Transferred to the Department Public Works.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government, R.D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 24th October 1871.

No. 381. ORDER THEREON, 24th October 1871, No. 2,697.

TELEGRAPH, No. 7.

COMMUNICATED to the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras Division, who will be requested to report whether it would be advisable to adopt the Artillery Barracks in the Fort of Kurnool as a Telegraph Office, and, if so, what is the minimum establishment for which accommodation will require to be provided, or whether it would be preferable to carry the wire into the Collector's office and give that Officer two Signallers and a Peon to carry on the work of the Telegraph Department which appears to be very light at Kurnool.

(True Extract.)

Captain, R.E.,
Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras Division.
" Revenue Department.

No 2697

Communicated to the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras Division, who will be requested to report whether it would be ~~advisable~~ to adopt the Artillery Barracks in the Fort of Kurnool as a Telegraph Office, and, if so, what is the minimum Establishment for which accommodation will require to be provided, or whether it would be preferable to carry the

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Supt. of Telegraphs,
Southern Division.
Rev. Dept.

Dec. 25/1855.

C. No - 4889.

Govt. of {1871} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Superintendent of
Telegraphs Madras
Circular

Dated

Rd.

C. 024 Letter 2697.

No. 381 & 381

Telegraph Office at
Kurnool - Supdt. of Telegraphs,
Madras &c ~~&c~~ ~~&c~~ ~~&c~~
~~requests Dispatch be~~
~~regarding the Building &~~
~~establishment required~~