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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

## Government of Madras

*Public Works* DEPARTMENT

|          |         |          |
|----------|---------|----------|
| G.O. No. | 303     | Press    |
| B.P. No. |         | Mis.     |
| Dated    | 3 . 3 . | 195 18/5 |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
3rd February 1875.*

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No 82                      Read the following papers.—

From Colonel D G ROBINSON, R E, Director-General of Telegraphs in India,  
to Colonel G W. WALKER, R E, Secretary to the Government of  
Madras, Public Works Department, dated Calcutta, 20th November  
1874, No. 3,019.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, dated 30th September 1874, and with reference thereto to offer the following observations.

2 The proposed plan for a Telegraph Office is unwarrantably extravagant, so extravagant that I am at a loss to comprehend how any Superintendent with the least pretensions to loyalty could have afforded it the slightest countenance.

3 My letter, as is truly observed, contemplated little more than the accommodation that would be accorded to two married Serjeants *plus* a room for the instruments and another for stores and batteries, about as much as that shown in the annexed sketch, which, I consider, should suffice for an office in the climate, and with the limited work, of Ootacamund

4 For servants' accommodation—four servants' houses, a double cook room, *et c.*, with double fire-place, so as to suit two establishments, a latrine, a two stalled stable, and a small store house should suffice

5 An expression of my extreme dissatisfaction with their unworthy conduct, as exhibited in this matter, will be communicated to Superintendents Owen and Harris, the Superintendents, who, if they have not asked for, have not pointed out the extravagance of building a palace where a cottage would suffice.

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No 82A Endorsement of the Acting Chief Secretary, dated 18th December 1874.

From J R COCKERELL, Esq, Commissioner of the Neilgherries, to the  
Honorable D F CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government,  
Fort St George, dated Ootacamund, 15th December 1874, No. 85.

In Order No 185, of 19th February 1874, Government directed the Government Architect to prepare a plan and estimate for a Telegraph Office on a site selected from the property of Mr. Leigh, the owner of the Alexandria Hotel

2 Mr. Leigh's terms were reported in paragraph 7 of my letter of 2nd January last, which appears in Proceedings printed with the order above quoted.

3 Mr Leigh now addresses me the enclosed letter in which he desires to be informed whether Government still require the site, as he has now an opportunity of disposing of it He has stated to me verbally the name of the would-be purchaser, and the terms, which are the same as I proposed to Government. I have the honor to request instructions on the subject.

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TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department for consideration.

(Signed) D F. CARMICHAEL,  
*Acting Chief Secretary.*

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
3rd February 1875.

No 83

ORDER THEREON, 3rd February 1875, No 303

CIVIL WORKS, No. 8

THE Consulting Architect to Government is instructed to prepare a plan and estimate of the accommodation required

for the purposes of the Telegraph Department according to the scale laid down in the Director General's sketch and letter.

2 His Excellency the Governor in Council is not disposed to pay so much as Rupees 2,000 for the site on Mr. Leigh's ground, 3 1/2 acres are quite unnecessary for the purpose in view. The area included in Mr. Chisholm's original site plan measures only 285 feet in length by 200 feet in depth, an area of less than 1 1/2 acre, and the cross sections taken of it show that it is a site which will probably involve expensive basements. Unless therefore so much as is required can be purchased at a moderate rate, say Rupees 400 an acre, or double the price paid for the reclamation land, the Commissioner will be so good as to look for another equally convenient site in communication with the Consulting Architect and District Engineer.

(True Extract)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government

To the Director-General of Telegraphs  
.. District Engineer, Neilgherries  
.. Superintendent of Telegraphs, Malabar  
.. Consulting Architect, with Sketch  
.. Public Department

Ed. T O Connor,  
Spare Copies

No 3019

FROM

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TELEGRAPHS IN INDIA,

TO Secretary to the Government of Madras  
Public Works Department

Calcutta, the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 1874.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the proceedings of the Madras Government Public Works Department dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 1874 and with reference thereto to offer the following observations

The proposed plan for a Telegraph Office is unwarrantably extravagant. so extravagant that I am at a loss to comprehend how any Superintendent with the least pretensions to loyalty could have afforded it the slightest countenance

My letter, as is truly observed, contemplated little more than the accommodation that would be accorded to two married sergeants plus a room for the instruments and another for stores and batteries about as much as that shown in the annexed sketch which I consider should suffice for an office in the climate and with the limited work of Cochin-mund

For servants accommodation 4 servants houses  
a double cookroom i.e with double fire-place so as to suit two

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H. B. Full  
for Commissioners

Ootacamund  
5<sup>th</sup> December 1874

To,

J. R. Crokerell Esquire  
Commissioner of the Nilgiris  
Ootacamund

Sir,

I have the honor to request you will  
be so good as to inform me whether the  
Government still require that piece of  
land, the proposed site for the new  
Telegraph Office, and if so whether the  
purchase cannot be completed at once. I  
have had a proposal for this land from  
another party and can realize the pur-  
chase money at once, if Government no  
longer require it

I have &c &c

Signed A. A. Leigh

True Copy

H. B. Jell  
for Commissioner

P. W. 1874 Debit  
to the credit of the  
No. 7458.  
Lam.

The Director General of  
Telegraphs in India

Dated 20<sup>th</sup> Dec/74  
Recd 27<sup>th</sup> Dec/74  
Em: 1. No. 3019.

Offering  
observations on the  
extravagant accom-  
modation proposed  
for the Telegraph  
Office buildings at  
Ootacamund.

EO No 303.3-2-75.

No 82

6-11-75

Ref.

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18th Dec 1909

18/12/09

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,

Delicadad, 15 December 1904

1. A. Cocherell Esquire.  
COMMISSIONER, NILGIRIS.

The Chief Secretary  
to Government  
Fort St George

In Order No. 185 of 19th February 1874, Government directed the Government Architect to prepare a plan and estimate for a telegraph office on a site selected from the property of Mr. A. S. the owner of the Cinnamon Hotel.

2. Mr. A. S.'s terms were reported in para. 1 of my letter of 22nd January last which appears in No. 10000, dated with the Order above quoted. 3. Mr. A. S. now advises me the enclosed letter in which he desires to be informed whether Government still require the site as he has now an opportunity of disposing of it. He has stated he would be willing to sell the land as he has now no other use for it and the terms which are the same as he offered to Government. I have the honor to remain, Sir, your obedient servant

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant

J. V. Bell  
for Commissioner

Public Works Department  
 Received at the Madras Government  
 Read the following

on the Director's order dated 1st Dec 1874  
 (No. 3019 of 20 Dec 1874)  
 Comm. on the subject of the  
 Public Works Department  
 30th

The Consulting Ar.  
 chitect to Government is  
 instructed to prepare a  
 Plan and estimate of  
 the accommodation re-  
 quired for the purposes  
 of the Telegraph Departt.  
 according to the scale laid  
 down in the Director's  
 order to sketch and letter  
 the

MB  
 9/11

Vol

Transferred to the Public Works Department  
 for consideration.

18 Dec. 1874.

By Chief Secretary

17/12/74

19th Dec 1874

No. 85

Date - 15th December 1874.

18/12/74

Commissioner's Office,  
 Ootacamund

The Chief Secretary  
 Government  
 Ootacamund

Enclosures

SUBJECT.

Relative copy of a letter  
 from Mr. Smith, requiring  
 whether the site selected for  
 the proposed for a new  
 telegraph office is suitable  
 required by post, and  
 necessary instructions  
 to be given.

18 Dec 1874

19th Dec 1874  
 No. 7951

The Chief Secretary  
 to Govt. Ootacamund

Dated 15th Dec 1874

18/12/74

Transferring  
 the present pro-  
 -posed of land for  
 the telegraph office  
 at Ootacamund.

18 Dec 1874

The President, the  
Governor or Council is  
not disposed to pay so  
much as \$2000 for the  
site on Mr. Light's grounds.  
3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> acres are quite unne-  
cessary for the purpose  
in view. The area inclu-  
ded in Mr. Chickel's  
original site plan mea-  
sures only 285 feet in  
length by 200 feet in  
depth, an area of less  
than 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> acres. and the cross  
sections taken of it show  
that

that it is a site which  
will probably involve ex-  
pensive excavations. The  
land therefore so much ad-  
vanced can be purchased  
at a moderate rate,  
say \$200 an acre, in-  
stead of the price paid for  
the reclamation land.  
The Commissioner will be  
expected to look for a  
unanimous consent of other parties in communi-  
cation with the Council.  
Mr. Archibald and Mr.  
Laidlaw.

Oppos.

Received of the  
Hon. the Secy of the  
Treasury  
the sum of \$1000  
on 11th Nov 1875

7456 7951

Gobt. of Madras.  
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Secy. of  
Telegraphs.

Dated

Recd

Encl /

G. O. 1007 of 1875, No. 303

No. 82-83.

New Telegraph Office

at Cotacumanab - The

Eng: Architects instructed  
to prepare a plan & estimate  
of the accommodation re-  
quired for the purposes of  
the Telegraph Depot accord-  
ing to the scale laid down  
by the Secy of Telegraphs  
& certain instructions issued  
on the selection of a site  
for the Building.