

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE**Government of Madras***Public Works*

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	948	Press
R.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	10-4	195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
10th April 1875.*

No. 196. Read the following letter from Captain G. T. SKIPWITH, R.E., Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Civil Works—Telegraph,) to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Fort William, 15th March 1875, No. 149 T. :—

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 3,612, dated the 22nd December 1874, forwarding, for consideration and orders, copy of correspondence on the subject of connecting the port of Gopaulpore telegraphically with the station of Berhampore, and in reply to forward, for information, copy of a letter No. 483, dated the 2nd instant, and of its accompaniment, from the Director-General of Telegraphs in India, to whom the proposal was referred for report, and to state that, under the circumstances explained, the Government of Madras will probably agree with the Government of India in thinking that it is not worthwhile to establish the communication referred to unless any means can be devised by which the proposed work may be made self-supporting.

From Colonel D. ROBINSON, R.E., Director-General of Telegraphs in India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, dated Calcutta, 2nd March 1875, No. 483.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 19 T, of the 12th January 1875, with which you forward for report copy of a letter and its enclosure from the Government of Madras on the subject of connecting the port of Gopaulpore with the Telegraph Station of Berhampore.

2. On receipt of a copy of the letter from the Collector, Ganjam, to the Master Attendant, Madras, No. 2,346, of the 25th September 1873, I directed the local Superintendent to ascertain whether, in the event of a Telegraph Office being opened at Gopaulpore, the Civil Authorities would object to the Berhampore Office being closed, a former Collector having expressed the opinion that North Ganjam was not entitled to two telegraph offices. The District and Sessions Judge in a letter, of which I forward a copy, characterized the proposal as nothing short of absurd, and the Agent at Berhampore of the Bank of Madras observed : " Beyond the Steamer Agent at the former place, I am not aware that a line is wanted to that fishing village, whereas this is the capital of the district, a bazaar of 20,000 people, the head-quarters of everything."

3. The present Collector is also it appears not prepared to recommend the abandonment of Berhampore as a Telegraph Station, but he urges the claim of Gopaulpore to a separate office in terms which appear to the Government of Madras to show conclusively the expediency of the measure.

4. The Collector's conclusions as to the financial result of the measure are based on an estimate furnished to him by the Assistant Superintendent of Telegraphs. This estimate is palpably incorrect, and I regret the Collector should have thus been misled.

5. The cost of a line from Berhampore to Gopaulpore is estimated at Rupees 3,111, the expenses of line maintenance would amount to about 10 Rupees monthly, and the estimated cost of a third-class office is, exclusive of house-rent, Rupees 175, so that the total annual cost may be set down as follows :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Interest at 5 per cent. on Rupees 3,111	155	8	0
Line maintenance charges at Rupees 10 per mensem	120	0	0
Cost of office (excluding rent 12 × 75)	2,100	0	0
	2,375	8	0

and the question to be settled is whether in the event of the office being established, the receipts at both Gopaulpore and Berhampore would amount to Rupees 198 monthly in excess of the present revenue obtained from Berhampore only.

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6. All the data in my disposal and the arguments put forward by the Collector lead to an opposite conclusion. It is admitted that a large portion of the traffic now despatched from Berhampore would be diverted to Gopaulpore if an office were opened there, and there is, it appears to me, every reason to expect that the latter station would become self-supporting at the expense of the former; on departmental grounds I cannot, therefore, support the proposal.

7. The strong opinion expressed as to the many indirect advantages to be expected from the establishment of an office at Gopaulpore will doubtless influence the Government of India in its decision; but on this point I do not feel called upon to offer an opinion.

From the District and Session Judge of Ganjam, Berhampore, to the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Ganjam Division, Midnapore, dated Ganjam, 3rd January 1874, No. 5.

Your letter of the 14th instant I circulated to all Heads of offices here, but I have received no communication on the subject, except from the Agent of the Bank.

2. This Court has but little business with the telegraph, but the pleaders say they often have to telegraph to lawyers at Madras; and I know that it is so. They would be considerably inconvenienced by the transfer of the telegraph office from Berhampore to Gopaulpore.

3. Though this Court would not be much affected by the transfer, I must say that the proposal seems to be nothing short of absurd. At Gopaulpore there are permanently established only four mercantile houses; and there are only two public offices, viz., the Post Office and the Custom House. The principal of the chief house there is probably more frequently at Aska, and Aska is nine miles nearer to Berhampore than to Gopaulpore.

The trade of Gopaulpore depends to a great extent on Berhampore, where there is a large trading community, and where is a branch bank of Madras which is also the Government Treasury. Besides this Court there are here also the undermentioned officials and their establishments:—

Officer Commanding Berhampore.
Civil Surgeon.
Reverend the Chaplain.
Superintendent of Jail.

Agent to the Bank.
Assistant Superintendent, Revenue Survey.
Vice-President, Municipal Commission.
Senior Assistant Collector and Magistrate.

When the Collector is at his head-quarters, Chetterpore, he is as near to Berhampore as he is to Gopaulpore, and when he is away from home he is generally nearer to Berhampore than to Gopaulpore.

In the matter of the movements of steamers, it would be serious inconvenience to every one if the office were moved, and I feel convinced that the earnings of the office would be seriously reduced.

I have received your telegram of this date, and have sent you the following answer:—

"Gopaulpore merchants four, officials two, office will not pay.

"Berhampore merchants, officials many, also Bank business much; transfer objectionable, very; Collector comes here Monday."

No. 197.

ORDER THEREON, 10th April 1875, No. 948.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 12.

COMMUNICATED to the Public Department with reference to G. O., No. 3,611, dated 22nd December 1874.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Ganjam District.
" Public Department.
" District Engineer, Ganjam.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

*P.R. 1845-Sept
W. 1907.*

*From
Govt of India.*

*Date 15th March/95
Recd-23rd*

*G.O. No 948.10.4-95
22-1-1*

Forwarding correspondence and intimating that it is not worth while to establish the communication of the port of Gopaulpore telegraphically with the station of Berhampore unless any means can be devised by which the work may be made self supporting.

Communicated to the Public Department with reference to G.O. No. 3611 dated 22nd Decr 1874 -

10-25-3-75-R1-4-75

*To Superintendent of Telegraphs - Ganjam Dist
Public Dept
District Engineer - Ganjam - P.O. No. 12. 4-75*

1907
Govt. of 1875 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To *Dept. of Telegraphy*
Dated *Sanjani Sit.*
Recd. Encl.

G. O. 10 April 1875, No. 98

Nos. 191-199.

establish the —
unless any means can
be devised by which
the work may be made
self supporting, Comm.
to the Public Dep't.

Communication of the
port of Gopaulpore tele
graphically with the
Station of Berhampore.

Letter from the Govt. of
India forwarding certain
correspondence and
intimating that it is
not worth while to