Archives I—10,006—16-8 77.

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MIL NADU ARCHIVES

ERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. ~~B.P. No.~~	1885.W	Press. Mis.
Dated	18-7-1879	~~197~~ .

folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

18th July 1879, No. 1,885 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

No. 101. Read again Government Proceedings, dated 14th June 1878, No. 2,504.

Read also the following papers :—

No. 101-A. From Major J. L. L. MORANT, R.E., District Engineer, Nilgiris, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 7th August 1878, No. 203.

WITH reference to G.O., No. 2,504, of 14th June 1878, I respectfully beg to invite attention to paragraph 2 of my letter, No. 445, of 24th December 1875, printed with G.O., No. 196, of 25th January 1876, which contains the causes that led to the cost of the combined offices so far exceeding that originally conjectured.

2. For facility of reference I beg to be allowed to here quote that paragraph:—

"I regret that this detailed estimate so much exceeds the Rupees 20,000 named in my letter, No. 289, of the 31st August 1875, printed with Public Works G.O., No. 2,609, of the 10th September 1875. I beg to submit the following explanation :—'When I stated in that letter that the building would cost Rupees 20,000, I had only prepared a ground plan and no elevation or section. The rough calculations which were made came to Rs. 18,000; I thought Rs. 20,000 would be a safe margin. I now see the figure ought to have been Rupees 25,000. The plans that were afterwards prepared were first designed so that the living rooms should be below and the public rooms above. By this arrangement the lower story rooms were of moderate height, the gables of the roof giving sufficient air space for the upper office rooms. Government not approving of this arrangement, the design now sent was prepared with the office rooms below and an additional room for the Postmaster-General, with out-houses, a covered gallery, &c. In order that the lower office rooms might be well lighted and ventilated, I raised their walls. The design was urgently required and sent in in a hurry; no kind of estimate was made; hence the discrepancy in the figures. I beg to send the first plan for comparison.'"

No. 101-B. From the same Officer, dated Ootacamund, 17th September 1878, No 246.

IN reply to your memorandum, No. 3,533, dated 10th August 1878, regarding the estimates for the Ootacamund Post and Telegraph offices, I have the honor to report that the combined Post and Telegraph offices were estimated to cost approximately Rupees 20,000, and in detail Rupees 32,000.

2. A separate building for the Telegraph office alone was estimated on a plan (without sections or elevations) furnished by the Consulting Architect to approximately cost Rupees 16,000, subsequently raised to 20,000 (*Vide* paragraph 3 of my letter printed with Public Works Department G.O., No. 196, of 25th January 1876). Detailed plans of a separate Telegraph office subsequently prepared by me were estimated to cost Rupees 32,900 and 25,200, as mentioned in the conclusion of your memorandum. See also Public Works Department G.O., No. 1,346 W, dated 15th March 1878.

3. If you will kindly again refer to paragraphs 1 and 2 of my letter printed with Public Works Department G.O., No. 196, of the 25th January 1876, you will see that they fully explain the difference between the regular and approximate estimates for the combined Post and Telegraph offices.

4. A sum of Rupees 3,000 was also estimated to place the present Post office in repair, but this was merely to make the present incommodious building temporarily safe and comfortable. It was in no way intended to improve it. (*Vide* paragraph 5 of my letter printed with Public Works Department G.O., No. 196, dated 25th January 1876).

5. I beg to take this opportunity of submitting a fresh design for a combined Post and Telegraph office in which it is proposed to entirely remove the present building, to lower its site to the level of the basement of the (smaller) Breek's Memorial School and to erect an entirely new building for a combined Post and Telegraph office on the design alluded to in Public Works Department G.O., No. 196, dated 25th January 1876, and approved in paragraph 8 of Public Works Department G.O., No. 1,346 W, dated 15th March 1878. This will cost in all Rupees 31,100 × 4,100 = 35,200 as per a separate plan and estimate attached. A detached Telegraph office will alone cost at least Rupees 25,200 excluding excavation for site and compensation for land which will raise it to at least Rupees 29,200. I have never estimated for a separate Post office, but merely for placing the present building in a good state of temporary repair and comfort; this I anticipate will cost Rupees 3,000. Thus a new separate Telegraph office and the present Post office put into thorough repair, but in no way altered or improved, will cost Rupees 32,200 (*Vide* end of paragraph 4, Government of India letter printed with Public Works Department G. O., No. 2,504 W., dated 14th June 1878). But this latter arrangement, although cheaper by Rupees 3,000, will leave the present Post office perched upon an inaccessible hillock which no carriage can approach, and will inconveniently divide the two offices from each other, and will merely furnish a Post office of the incommodious and objectionable kind now standing, and which I feel sure will sooner or later have to be removed or rebuilt. The present Post office is also a very ugly structure quite out of keeping with its surrounding buildings. Moreover the removal of the present inconvenient building and the lowering of its site will improve the rear light and ventilation of the Commissioner's Office—collateral objects of some importance.

6. Therefore, as altogether the best method of satisfactorily meeting the case, I beg respectfully to submit the present proposal for erecting a combined Post office and Telegraph office on the site on which the old Post office now stands.

No. 101-C. From H. G. TURNER, Esq., Acting Postmaster-General, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 23rd September 1878, No. A 9—

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 4,263 of the 20th September 1878, forwarding to me a letter from the District Engineer, Nigiris, No. 246, dated 17th September 1878.

2. In this letter Major Morant proposes that the Postal Department shall abandon the old building and hand it and the site over for the erection of a combined Post and Telegraph office.

3. He explains that we have misunderstood him in our assumption that the extra accommodation we require can be afforded for Rupees 3,000; for, in point of fact, this sum of money would only suffice for making the building water-tight and comfortable, and would not provide for enlargement.

4. It is understood from paragraph 5 that a detached Telegraph office will cost Rupees 29,200; but that, if we give up the site of the Post office, it can be built for Rupees 25,200, and that accommodation for us can be provided in a combined building costing Rupees 35,200. The Director-General of Post Offices objected to the combined building as formerly proposed, on the ground that it would not be proper, seeing that the two departments are not equally destitute of convenient buildings; that the cost should be equally divided between them. And I conjecture that a proposal of this nature would now call up a similar objection. I think therefore that it would tend to an easier settlement of the case if you were able to tell us what proportion of the cost of the building should be debited to each department, and I submit that the accommodation we afford by surrendering the convenient site should be taken into consideration in framing this account, or, without asking for an exact estimate, we should like to be told what it would cost, approximately, to so alter the present old building as to make it more comfortable, commodious and approachable.

5. The accommodation provided in the plans for the Post office and for the Postmaster's quarters are very suitable. The proposal to erect the new building on the site of the old after knocking it down and removing the boss of earth on which it stands, seems highly practical and convenient.

6. I shall refer the whole question to the Director-General of the Post Office, and I shall have the honor of communicating his opinion to you.

7. I have the honor to return the following papers:—

A. Letter from the District Engineer to Chief Engineer, No. 246,
B. Detailed plans, estimates and specification of the Postmaster's residence.
C. Government of Madras, Public Works No. 140-141.
D. Letter from the Director-General of Telegraphs, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Madras, No. 1,893, Simla, 11th August 1878, and reply thereto from the Madras Government, No. 3,757.

No. 101-D. From Major J. L. L. MORANT, R.E., District Engineer, Nilgiris, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 26th September 1878, No. 257.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your memorandum, No. 4,334, dated the 25th instant, with accompanying letter from the Postmaster-General (herewith returned).

2. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Postmaster-General's letter, I have the honor to report that, of the estimated cost of Rupees 35,200 for a combined edifice, Rupees 15,200 is the share of the accommodation provided in the plans and estimate for the Postal Department. But if, as is perhaps proper, allowance is to be made to the Postal Department for the site and present building, the Madras Government might perhaps be disposed to meet a charge of Rupees 3,200 which may fairly be stated to represent the concessions made by that department. For the value of the materials of the present building used in the new structure, Rupees 6,080 have been deducted from the estimate already submitted. The case would then stand thus:—

	RS.
Debitable to the Telegraph Department	20,000
Do. to Postal Department	12,000
Do. to Madras Government	3,200
Total ...	35,200

3. With regard to the concluding portion of paragraph 4 of the Postmaster-General's letter, I have the honor to state that the present building is really unapproachable. No carriage drive can ever be made to it, nor do I think the structure itself is capable of improvement. The building is a low, dark, unventilated, flat-roofed edifice desigued when constructed for quite another purpose than that to which it has of late been put.

No. 101-E. From Major P. MONTGOMERIE, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Fourth Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 29th April 1879, No. A.C.

I HAVE the honor to report that, in accordance with the instructions contained in your letter, No. 2, dated 22nd instant, I have carefully investigated the rates for work entered in the estimate for the combined Post and Telegraph Offices proposed to be built at Ootacamund, and, as directed, I beg to submit an analysis of the data (under labor and material) for each of the more important items of work in the design.

2. To further illustrate the subject, and to enable an opinion to be formed as to the reasonableness or otherwise of these rates, I also enclose a statement showing the cost of labor, carriage and work on the Nilgiris compared with that in the adjoining districts of Coimbatore, Malabar, and Salem, from which you will observe that with the exception of the items for plastering, pointing and flooring with square bricks (which are unnecessarily high, and which will be noticed hereafter), the rates for the other description of work are not very much out of the way, considering the circumstances under which the operations of the Department are carried out on the hills.

3. On the Nilgiris the cost of unskilled labor is 100 per cent., that of skilled labor 50 per cent., and carriage 70 per cent. more than on the plains; and making due allowance for the extra cost of carrying lime up the Ghâts, I am of opinion that if the difficulties in procuring firewood were removed, and some better arrangements were allowed for the manufacture of bricks, the cost on these hills of the principal item of expenditure by this Department, viz., "bricks in mortar," might be reduced from 100 to 75 per cent. over the cost of similar work on the plains.

4. In the first place every 100 cubic feet of brickwork built by the Public Works Department at Ootacamund is handicapped by a charge of Rupees 3-9-7 for carriage; this is owing to the brick kilns being situated some miles out of the station instead of being as close as possible to the building to be constructed, as is done in almost every other part of the world. I would, therefore, suggest that the manufacture of bricks and tiles be permitted in the brick fields which were opened out some years ago at the back of the Government Office, or at any other place convenient to works in progress; this would in no way interfere with the occupants of the Government Office, as brick-making on the hills can only be carried out from October to March when the Government is usually at Madras, and the manufacture of bricks is evidently not objected to by the permanent residents of the place or by the Municipality judging from the numerous private kilns that may be seen along every public road. By the removal of the brick fields to a more convenient site a saving of Rupees 2 per 1,000 bricks may be anticipated in carriage alone.

5. Again, the anomaly of all Government buildings under construction on the hills having to pay a seigniorage of Rupees 2 from every bandy load of fuel used in their construction has I take it merely to be properly represented to be removed. It is quite reasonable that the Forest Department should be credited in their account (if it is considered a matter of vital importance to do so) with the value of all firewood used on public works, even although the sholas from which the firewood is taken were in existence long before the Forest Department was thought of, and with the growth of which they have had nothing whatever to do. But I cannot think that it is the intention of the Madras Government that the grants for public works sanctioned from Imperial sources should be reduced by this seigniorage. If Government would allow firewood to be taken by the Public Works Department at their own expense (subject of course to all the Forest Rules), and if some slight improvements were introduced in the arrangement at the brick fields, so as to obviate the necessity of carrying the raw bricks up hill to the kilns, a further saving of at least 3 rupees for 1,000 bricks would be the result.

6. The rate of Rupees 4 per cubic foot of Teakwood wrought and put up is, I consider, reasonable, as the wood has to be raised several thousand feet before reaching the plateau. The Teakwood of the Indian forests is of a superior quality when properly selected, but it would probably not be supplied in sufficient size or quantity if a large building had to be constructed, and recourse to Burmah Teak would be necessary. The Burmah Teak I find can be obtained either at Madras or Negapatam for Rupees 80 a ton, which is a little cheaper than the rate charged by the Forest Department at Ootacamund.

7. With reference to the rates, Rupees 10 per square for plastering and Rupees 12 per square for pointing, which are 300 and 700 per cent. dearer than similar work on the plains, it would appear to be the intention of the Executive Engineer to work up the exterior of his buildings more than is usually done in other parts of the country. These rates I would reduce to Rupees 8 per square for plastering and Rupees 3 for pointing.

8. The work flooring with square tiles Rupees 58 per square I am informed has not usually been carried out on the hills which perhaps accounts for the discrepancies in the data on which the rate has been framed. The rate for this description of work should be reduced to Rupees 32 per square as corrected in the margin of the statement.

9. In conclusion I have the honor to observe that there are at present over three lakhs of bricks in stock at the Government brick fields, so that whatever saving may be effected in future in carrying out the suggestions made above the rate for brickwork in mortar in the estimate for the combined Post and Telegraph Offices will not be affected, as the material in hand is just sufficient to complete this work.

10. I must, however, not end this report on the rates in the Nilgiri Division without bringing to your notice that although the rates have materially increased within late years, owing to the rise in the price of labor, material and carriage, the Executive Engineer, who has been in charge of the Division for the past twelve years, has evidently tried his best to keep them within moderate bounds, first, by the proposal to manufacture bricks within the station, and again by the discontinuance of the practice of carrying limestone instead of lime, which is much lighter, up the Ghâts.

11. As the working season is advancing, I have the honor to request that very early orders may be passed on the estimate in question, to enable me to utilize the grants provided in the current year's budget.

No. 101-F. From the same Officer, dated Coimbatore, 9th July 1879, No. 445.

WITH reference to your memorandum, No. 2,045, dated 2nd June 1879, I have the honor to forward three tracings of plans of combined Post and Telegraph Office, proposed quarters for the Postmaster at Ootacamund, and tracing showing section of site of the building, with two estimates, amounting to Rupees 36,200, as per margin.

Three tracings.
One estimate of Rupees 31,100 with specification for constructing combined Post and Telegraph Office at Ootacamund.
One do. of Rupees 5,100 with do. for constructing quarters for the Postmaster at Ootacamund.

2. In submitting the above estimates, I have the honor to point out that the total amount of the estimate for the proposed quarters of Postmaster, sent with Nilgiri District Engineer's letter, No. 246, dated 17th September 1878, should be Rupees 5,200 instead of Rupees 4,200, as the District Engineer has erroneously deducted the amount of out-houses in the estimate which should have been made in the estimate of combined Post and Telegraph Office. These corrections have now been made in the accompanying estimates.

No. 102. ORDER THEREON, 18th July 1879, No. 1,885 W.

THE Government of India having inquired under what circumstances the cost of the project for building either combined offices for the Postal and Telegraph Departments at Ootacamund as a separate Telegraph Office had increased so largely, the District Engineer, Nilgiri, was, in the marginal Government Proceedings, directed to report briefly on the subject.

G.O., No. 2,564, dated 14th June 1878.

2. Major Morant refers to his letter recorded with G.O., of the 25th January 1876, as containing explanation of the cause of increase in the amount of the estimate, and submits another estimate for an entirely new combined office, to be built in accordance with the original design, on the site of the old Post Office, which is to be demolished and its materials made use of for the new building; while the

ground is to be lowered to the level of the Memorial School. The cost of this project, for which estimates in detail have been prepared, amounts to Rupees 3[illegible]00, the share of the Telegraph Department being fixed by Major Morant at Rupees 20,000.

After correction in the Chief Engr Office.

3. In consideration of the fact that the sight belongs to the Postal Department, it is proposed by the late District Engineer to allow that Department compensation to the extent of Rupees 3,200 to be reimbursed by Government. This proposal is perfectly inadmissible; the whole cost of the building must be borne by the two Departments concerned in such proportions as may be decided by the Directors-General. The Governor in Council is not prepared to accept any charge against Provincial Funds on this account.

4. The Postmaster-General approves the proposal to erect combined offices, but the Director-General of Post Offices is strongly opposed to his Department sharing a building with the Telegraph Department. He, however, consents to waive his objections on condition that the site remains the Post Office site, and that, should it be hereafter necessary that one Department should vacate the building, that Department is to be the Telegraph.

5. His Grace the Governor in Council is satisfied that the proposal to erect new combined offices will, in the long run, be the more economical, and resolves to forward Major Morant's last estimate to the Government of India with an expression of his opinion to that effect.

6. The conditions on which the Director-General of Post Offices is prepared to accept the combined building must be discussed between himself and the Director-General of Telegraphs.

7. Ordered that the following letter be sent to the Government of India.

(Here enter No. 1,886 W., dated 18th July 1879).

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Circle.
„ Postmaster-General.

Exd. E. C. Shunker and C. Howarth.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of [1879] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
FOURTH CIRCLE,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated July 18th.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 18th July 1879, No. 1,885 W.

JULY.

Nos 101-102.

Combined Post and Telegraph Office at Ootacamund.—The estimates for a —, forwarded with remarks to the Government of India.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

No. 1,886 W.

No. 103.

FROM

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,
Public Works Department,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
Public Works Department.

SIR,—In reply to the Deputy Secretary's letter, No. 453 A.—G., of the 20th May 1878, and with reference to previous correspondence, I am directed to forward Proceedings of this Government, under date the 25th January 1876, No. 196, recording a letter from Major Morant, the District Engineer of the Nilgiris, which supplies the information desired in Colonel Innes' fourth paragraph.

No. 1,885 W., dated 18th July 1879.

2. I am also to forward the marginal Proceedings covering proposals by the District Engineer for building a new combined Post and Telegraph Office on the site of the old Post Office with detailed estimates to the amount of Rs. 34,100.

3. It will be seen that the Director-General of Post Offices attaches certain conditions to the consent unwillingly given by him to arrangements under which his Department would have to share the building with the Telegraph Department. It will be for the Directors-General of the two Departments concerned to discuss these conditions between themselves, and to decide in what proportions the cost of the building is to be borne by their Departments.

4. I am to state that His Grace the Governor in Council is satisfied that the present proposals will eventually be found to be more economical than any under which the two offices are kept separate.

5. The high rates of the estimate are, I am directed to state, mainly due to the difficulty with which labor is obtained on the Nilgiris. A careful scrutiny has shown that only some slight reductions are feasible, but no effort will be spared to keep them as low as possible consistent with sound construction.

6. His Grace in Council is anxious that early and final orders should be passed on the proposals, in order that due provision for the execution of the work may be made in the Budget of 1880-81, the late orders of the Government of India regarding restriction of expenditure preventing the commencement of the building in the present official year.

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

Major, R.E.,
for Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

OOTACAMUND,
18th July 1879.

Exd. C. Howarth.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1879} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS

To

The SECRETARY to the
GOVERNMENT of INDIA.

Dated July 18

Issued

Recd. Recd.

G. O., 15th July 1879, No. 1,8[illegible] W.

JULY.

No. 103

CONTENTS Post and Telegraph Office at Ootacamund.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Letter from the District Engineer, Nilgiris, No. 24
dated 17th September 1878.

Letter from the Ag: Post Master General No. Ag/1
dated 23d Sept. 1878.

Letter from the District Engr., Nilgiris, No. 257
dated 26th Sept. 1878.

FOR ORDERS.

is the Chief Engineer believes
e the best mode of settling the
ction of site while it will re-
e a most unsightly and
tionably substantial building
n juxtaposition with the
lsome ones in its vicinity.

P & T. Dt. must
le between themselves
then they can provide
funds. Provincial
can accept the

The District Engineer, Nilgiris, now proposes to erect a combined Post and Telegraph Office on the site of the old Post Office after lowering the ground to the level of Breeks Memorial School; the design to be that approved of in G.O. No 1340 W dated 15th March /78, para 3.

The cost of the project is estimated at Rs: 35,200, of which Rs: 15,200 represent the share of accommodation provided for the Post Office and Rs 20,000, that allowed to the Telegraph Office.

The Postal Department consider that some compensation is due to them for the existing site and building, and this is assessed by Major Morant at Rs. 3,200. But the manner in which he proposes to reimburse the Postal Dept. seems inadmissible. It is simply a matter of debit between the two Departments. The aggregate cost must be borne by them in the proportions to be specified by Government.

E A Trevor Col RE
Chief Engr & Secy to Govt
PWD

28th Sept 78.

charge on this acct.

Removal of old P.O. & building on to a combined Office seems perhaps the best arrangt. feasible as regards economy.

30.9.78

The scheme of [illegible] site [illegible] [illegible] – it will then be for postal Dept [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

The old building can be used on Govt. [illegible] of works & materials [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] –

The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] –

Strongly [illegible] [illegible] will be allowed to prevail

I am glad His Excy has determined to have this matter looked into by [illegible] a Comm.–

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] as a [illegible]?
2/10/78

FOR ORDERS.

2. 13-3-79
Cir. 2899-78 dated 12-10-78
of Sheet 102 [illegible]

Post & Telegraph
Offices, Ooty

To W. with proposed draft

The enclosed file relates to the construction of accommodation for the Post and Telegraph Depts: at Ooty.

The correspondence has been going on for years past, and there have been various moot points, none of which are yet settled.

A running abstract is given below:-

G.O. No. 303 dated 3.2.75 The Cons: Architect is asked to plan and Estimate for accommodation required by the Telegraph Dept. on the Scale laid down in the D.G.T's letter recorded with that order

G.O. No. 2154 dated 27.7.75 The Cons Architect having submitted a plan, the D.E. Nilgiris is asked to report on feasibility of combining Telegraph office with existing Post Office.

G.O. No. 2609 d/10.9.75 The D.E. Nilgiris gives approximate Est. with plans, estimating the joint-office at Rs 20,000 the Single Telegraph Office at Rs 16,000 the plans were forwarded to the D. G.s of the Telegraph and Postal Depts;

G.O. No. 3400 dated 30.11.75 The D.G.'s approve the proposal to construct a joint office, the D.G. of Post Offices objecting, however, to his dept. bearing more than about Rs 2000 of the whole amount;

The Govt. directs the D.E. to complete plan and estt. and to state in what proportions the outlay should be divided between the two depts;

G.O. No 196 dated 25.1.76 D.E. Nilgiris submits plan and est. for combined office, amtg. to Rs. 32,000, Rs 12000 being debitable to the Postal depts;

The Govt. returns project for entire revision as being too costly, and, with reference to suggestion from India, tell the D.E. to plan and estimate for new Telegraph office & alterations to Post office separately;

G.O. No. 49 B.R. dated 31.7.77 D.E. ordered to submit revised plan and est. & account for delay;

G.O. No. 134 B.R. dated 15.3.78

D.E. submits alternative designs for Telegraph office alone amtg. to Rs 32,900 and Rs 25.200; these amts being exclusive of cost of purchasing site - probably Rs 4000 more.

The Govt concur with D.E. in considering that the combined office will be the best and more economical, and refer the matter for the reconsideration of the Govt of India;

G.O. No. 2504 dated 14.6.78 Govt. of India ask why the cost of the combined office has increased from Rs 20,000 to Rs 32,000, and that of the separate Telegraph office from Rs 16000 to Rs 25.200 or Rs 32,900, plus Rs 4,000 for land.

The D.E. is called on for explanation on the first point. [The order seems to have been written under some misapprehension, as afterwards pointed out by the D.E. Full explanation had already been given by Captain Morant in his letter recorded with G.O. No. 196 dated 25-1-76. Notwithstanding which, the D.E. was in C.E. Memo: No. 3533 dated 10.8.78 again called on for explanation]

D.E.'s No. 203 d/7 Aug 78 The D.E. points out that explanation has already been given of the cause of increase of the estimates;

C.E. No. 3533 d/10 Aug 78 The D.E. is informed that further explanation is required;

D.E. No. 246 d/17 Septr 78 The D.E. again states that his letter recorded with G.O. No. 196 of the 25 January, 1876 clearly explains the matter;

50

He also submits an Est. in detail for entirely new combined offices, built, according to the original design, on the site of the old post-office, the ground on which that stands being lowered to the level of Bucks' Memorial School; the cost to be Rs. 35.200; [illegible]

Post Master General's No. A 9/1 d/23 Sept. 78 Mr Turner states that he will refer the matter to the D.G. of Post Offices; asks what the share of the cost to be borne by his dept. will be; and whether the old quarters can be made accessible;

D.G. No. 257 dated 26.9.78 The D.G. states that Rs 15.200 of the total cost of Rs 35.200 are debitable to the Postal Dept., but that, in consideration of the site belonging to them, a deduction of Rs 3.200 might be made from that amount; and that in no-way whatever could the present building be made accessible to carriages.

At this stage the papers went up to Government again. Mr Huddleston stated that the D.G.'s should settle whether they could provide funds [and in what proportion] and that the last proposal by the D.G. for an entirely new building, combining the two depts., was the most feasible ~~or of~~ arrangement, apparently, as regarded economy. The Governor concurred, remarking, however, that no buildings could be carried on till the rates prevailing were lowered, that they were simply exorbitant & should not be allowed. Sir W. Robinson suggested that a Committee should be constituted to include the Cons: Architect to report on this point of rates.

[Nothing was done on this, and the high rates in connection with the Govt. House buildings were again noticed by Govt. vide C.E. Memo: recorded with G.O. No. 4488 dated 25th Nov. 1878.]

T.O.

Post Master General's to A. 5407 d/ 14 Nov/78

Mr Turner forwarded the reply of his Director to the reference made him on the D.E.'s last estimate.

The D.G. strongly objected to having his and the Telegraph Dept. under the same roof, but consented to the proposal on the conditions that the site was to remain the Postal Dept's, and that if ever one Dept. had to vacate, it should be the Telegraph Dept.

Govt. had some idea at this time of purchasing some buildings on the adjacent slope - Framjee's - and of locating the Postal and Telegraph Depts. in buildings to be erected there - at least this appears to have been under consideration - but the offer of Framjee's site was finally declined last month - vide separate file -

And the question of the several proposals before-mentioned has been lying over, awaiting settlement of the other question. 17/4

A draft order, which may, perhaps, meet the case, is submitted to the W.

The letter to India will be drafted afterwards - should the W approve of the order or of something like it.

A.E.P. 21/4/79

Hon W Huddleston

3

Draft for approval

I think it better that the H. M. should see this draft letter, particularly with reference to the para on the subject of the higher rates

12-5-79

Seen

Sr. Pro 9 17-7-79 No. 12587

No. 2 of 22d Apl/79

To the Supg. Engr. 4 Circle

Sir

With reference to the correspondence which has taken place on the subject of the proposed combined Post and Telegraph Office for Ootacamund (Rs 35,200) I have the honor to request that you will without delay investigate the rates for all the important items of work in the design and submit the data (under labour and materials) for all such with those for carriage of materials to site, accompanied by a distinct expression of your opinion as to their reasonableness or otherwise.

R H

Chief Engr.

22.4.79

Cir 13-5-79. Rcpt 17-5-79.
[illegible] Recd 5th Mar

Comparison of Rates on the Nilgiris with those in the adjoining Districts

Particulars	Nilgiris	Coimbatore	Malabar	Salem	Excess over the rates on the hills
Labor per day					
Skilled					
Maistries	40/	10/	25/	27/	50 per cent
Stone cutters	1/2	/9	/12	/9	
Bricklayers	/11	/8	/12	/10	
Carpenters	/15	/9	/12	/10	
Smiths	/15	/8	/12	/10	
Painters	/11	/5	/12	/7½	
Unskilled					
Head Cooly	/10	/4	/6	/4	100 per cent
Cooly man	/5	/2½	/4½	/2½	
Cooly woman	/3½	1⅓	/3½	/1½	
Cooly boy	/2½	/1	/3	/1	
Carriage					
Bullock Cart	1/4	1/12	1/2	/12	70 per cent
Pack bullock	/6	/6	/6	/6	

Particulars	Nilgiris	Coimbatore	Malabar	Salem	Excess over the rates on the plains
100 c. ft. Brick in mortar (Lower Story)	40.	20/	30/	18/	100 per cent
100 " Do (Upper Story)	45.	24	33/	20/	
Square plastering with mortar	10.	2/8	2/8	2/8	300 per cent
Do Tuck pointing	12	1/8	1/4	2/	700 per cent.
Do Teak flooring (Lower Story)	102.	Not used			
Do Do (Upper Story)	145	Do	Do		
Do Flooring with 1 sqre bricks	58	7/8	15/	6/	600 per cent
Do Roofing with shingles	30	Not used			
Cubic ft Teakwood wrought and put up	4.	3/4	3/4	3/8	20 per cent
Sqre ft Doors and windows	2	1/4	1/8	1/4	60 per cent

Supg Engr's office
Camp Ootacamund
29th April 1879

Major RE
Supg Engineer 4 Circle

Analysis of the Building Data
Nilgiri Division

Quantity or No.	Description	Per	Rate	Amount	Total
	1. Brick Ashlar in Mortar Lower Story				
1400	Bricks	1000	12	16 12 9	
	Carriage	1000	3	3 9 7	
8½	Parahs of Lime	Parah	1 4 ..	10 10 ..	
17	Parahs of sand	Do	.. 4 ..	4 4 ..	
3½	Brick layers	Each	.. 11 3	2 7 4	
1	Man cooly	Do	.. 5 ..	.. 5 ..	
7½	Boys	Do	.. 2 6	1 2 9	
	Share of grinding			.. 2 ..	
				39 5 5	
	Sundries			10 7	
	Total cost for 100 cubic feet			40	40 .. ..
1400	Bricks	1000	12	16 12 9	
	Carriage	1000	3	3 9 7	
8½	Parahs of Lime	Parah	1 4 ..	10 10 ..	
17	Parahs of sand	Do	.. 4 ..	4 4 ..	
5	Bricklayers	Each	.. 11 3	3 8 3	
8	Men coolies	Do	.. 5 ..	2 8 ..	
7	Boys	Do	.. 2 6	1 1 6	
	Scaffolding and share of grinding			1	
				43 6 1	
	Sundries			1 9 11	
	Total cost for 100 cubic feet			45	45 .. ..

4	Parahs of Lime	Parah	1 4 „	5 „ „
8	Parahs of sand	D°	„ 4 „	2 „ „
3	Bricklayers	Each	„ 11 3	2 1 9
½	Man cooly	D°	„ 5 „	„ 2 6
1	Woman cooly	D°	„ 3 6	„ 3 6
2	Boys	D°	„ 2 6	„ 5 „
				9 12 9
	Sundries			3 3
	Total cost for 100 square feet		10 „ „	10 „

½	Parah of Lime	Parah	1 4 „	„ 10 „
⅓	Parah of Quartz stones	Parah	„ 5 „	„ 1 8
11½	Bricklayers	Each	„ 11 3	8 1 4
2	Men coolies	Each	„ 5 „	„ 10 „
8	Women coolies	D°	„ 3 6	1 12 „
3	Boys	D°	„ 2 6	„ 7 6
				11 10 6
	Sundries			„ 5 6
	Total cost for 100 square feet		12 „ „	12 „

104	Bricks	1000	12 „ „	1 4 „
	Carriage	1000	3 „ „	„ 5 „
2½	Parahs of Lime	Parah	1 4 „	3 2 „
5	Parahs of sand	D°	„ 4 „	1 4 „
1	Brick layer	Each	„ 11 3	„ 11 3
1	Man cooly	D°	„ 5 „	„ 5 „
18	cubic feet of Teakwood wrought and put up	c ft	5 „ „	90 „ „
20	Running feet of skirting boards	10 r ft	1 „ „	2 „ „
7	Coolies attending carpenters	Each	„ 5 „	2 3 „
7	Wooden bricks	D°	„ 1 6	„ 10 6
				101 12 9
	Sundries			„ 3 3
	Total cost for 100 square feet		102 „ „	102

28	Cubic feet of teakwood wrought and put up	c ft	5 „ „	140 „ „
20	Running feet of skirting boards	10 r ft	1 „ „	2 „ „
7	Wooden bricks	Each	„ 1 6	„ 10 6
10	Coolies attending carpenters	D°	„ 5 „	3 2 „
				145 12 6
	Sundries			„ 3 6
	Total cost for 100 square feet		146 „ „	146 „

100	Paving bricks	1000	~~100~~ „ „	~~10~~ 5 „ „
	Carriage	50	3 8 „	7 „ „
3½	Parahs of Lime	Parah	1 4 „	4 6 „
7	Parahs of sand	D°	„ 4 „	1 12 „
1¾	Bricklayers	Each	„ 11 3	1 3 8
1	Man cooly	D°	„ 5 „	„ 5 „
4½	Boys	D°	„ 2 6	„ 11 3
~~10~~ 3	Parahs of Lime	Parah	1 4 „	~~12~~ 8 „
~~20~~	Parahs of sand	D°	„ 4 „	~~5 „ „~~ 1 8
~~30~~ 10	Parahs of broken brick bats	D°	„ 5 „	~~9 6 „~~ 3 2
2½	Brick layers	Each	„ 11 3	1 12 6
2	Men coolies	D°	„ 5 „	„ 10 „
4	Boys	D°	„ 2 6	„ 10 „
	Carriage			1 8 „
				~~56~~ 12 5
	Sundries			1 3 7
	Total cost for 100 square feet		~~58~~ „ „	~~58~~ „

800	Teak shingles	1000	20 „ „	16 „ „
2500	Shingle nails	200	„ 6 „	4 11 „
10	Running feet of continuous iron ridging	„	„ 4 „	2 8 „
6	Carpenters	Each	„ 14 „	5 4 „
2	Boys	D°	„ 2 6	„ 5 „
				28 12 „
	sundries			1 4 „
	Total Cost for 100 square feet		30 „ „	30 „

1	Cc foot of Timber	Cc ft	2 „ „	2 „ „	
	Sawyers			„ 8 „	
1	Carpenter	Each	„ 12 „	„ 12 „	
	Nails &c	„	„ „	„ 6 „	
				3 10 „	
	Sundries			„ 6 „	
	Total cost of 1 Cc foot of timber wrought and put up excluding wastage		4 „ „	4 „ „	

4½	Cc ft teakwood	Cc ft	3 „ „	13 8 „	
¼	Wastage in working it	„	„ „	3 4 6	
2¼	Carpenters	Each	1 „ „	2 4 „	
				19 0 6	
	Panelled and glazed portions				
1¼	cc ft of Teakwood	Cc ft	3 „ „	3 12 „	
¼	Wastage in working it	„	„ „	„ 15 „	
3	Carpenters	Each	1 „ „	3 „ „	
12	Panes of glaſs including putty	Do	„ 4 „	3 „ „	
1	Braſs door lock with key and handles	„	„ „	3 „ „	
1	Pair of 3 inch braſs hinges with screws	„	„ „	1 „ „	
1	Braſs hook 6 inches long	„	„ „	„ 8 „	
2	Coolies attending Carpenters	Each	„ 5 „	„ 10 „	
	Wood oiling	„	„ „	„ 7 „	
	Sandpaper bees wax chalk twine and carting &c	„	„ „	1 „ „	
	Sundries	„	„ „	„ 7 „	
	Total			36 12 6	36 11
	Cost of 1 Square foot			2 „ „	

Analysis of the Building Data
Nilgiri Division concluded

Quantity or No	Description	Per	Rate	Amount	Total
1	Maistry Moulding 9000	Each	„ 6 „	„ 6 „	
1	Moulder	Do	„ 10 „	„ 10 „	
2	Hack barrow coolies	Do	„ 4 „	„ 8 „	
2	Aſsistants to Moulder	Do	„ 4 „	„ 8 „	
1	Hack woman	Do	„ 3 „	„ 3 „	
3	Pug mill coolies	Do	„ 4 „	„ 12 „	
3	Coolies digging clay	Do	„ 4 „	„ 12 „	
4	Boys	Do	„ 3 „	„ 12 „	
3	Women	Do	„ 3 „	„ 9 „	
1	Pair of Bullock	„	„	1 „ „	
				6 „ „	6 „ „
	Cost of 1000 Bricks moulded	„	„ „	3 „ „	
	Cost of graſs	„	„ „	„ 8 „	
	Packing	„	„ „	„ 8 „	
	Burning	„	„ „	„ 8 „	
	Firewood	„	„ „	6 8 „	
	Superintendent and Sundries			1 „ „	
	Total cost of 1000 Bench made bricks well burnt			12 „ „	

20	Parahs of Lime stone for a kiln at Marothoor about 7 miles from Mettapollium				
2	Coolies to dig 20 parahs or 1⅔ Cyds	Do	„ 6 „	„ 12 „	
5	Women to break 20 parahs of lime stone	Do	„ 2 „	„ 10 „	
	Firewood for burning			1 8 „	
1	Cooly to attend to the kiln	Do	„ 6 „	„ 6 „	
	Carried over			3 4 „	

	Brought over		3-4-	
3	Carts for carting the 20 parahs of lime stone from Maroothoo to Metapolliem	Each 1 8 "	4 8 "	
18	Bamboo mats for bandies half price as they can be used afterwards	" " "	2 2 "	
3	Carts for carting the lime stone from Metapolliem to Ooty	D° 10 "	30 " "	
			39 14 "	39 14
20	Parahs of stone when slaked will produce 35 parahs of slaked lime			
∴1	Parah of slaked lime will cost	" " "	1 2 3	
	Add for Superintendence &ca		" 1 9	
	Total cost per parah delivered at Ootacamund		1 4 "	1 4
20	Parahs of lime stone for a kiln at Maroothoo about 7 miles from Metapolliem			
2	Coolies to dig 20 parahs at 1$\frac{2}{3}$ cyds each	" 6 "	" 12 "	
5	Women to break 20 parahs of lime stone	D° " 2 "	" 10 "	
	Firewood for burning		1 8 "	
1	Cooly to attend to the Kiln	D° " 6 "	" 6 "	
3	Carts for carting the 20 parahs of lime stone from Maroothoo to Metapolliem	D° 1 8 "	4 8 "	
18	Bamboo mats for bandies half paid as they can be used afterwards	" " "	2 2 "	
3	Carts, for carting the lime stone from Metapolliem to Wellington	D° " 8 "	24 " "	
			33 14 "	33 14
20	Parahs of stone when slaked will produce 35 parahs of slaked lime will cost	" " " "	15 6	
	Add for Superintendence &ca	" " " "	2 6	
	Total cost per para delivered at Wellington		1 2 "	

Major R.E.
Supg Engineer 4 Circle

Pro 9/77-7-77 No 1885

Agree to the Branch
proposal.
Agree [illegible]
suggestion that the
[illegible] Committee on the
[illegible]
be referred [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

I have passed the draft
[illegible] with a
letter to G. I. but a
[illegible]. Of course
the work comes under
the Technical order.

As regards the question
[illegible] the [illegible]
on Forward of P. D. for
[illegible] work shd. be
Cir 6.5.79. Rtd 12.5.79.
O. L. Sheil 5 May

Recd 17.5.79. Rtd 17.5.79.

Noted the Drawings

For Orders

Combined Post and
Telegraph Office
Ootacamund

15/5

The designs & Estim
for the above work
have been in readines
for submission to the
G of I since last Septem
but have been delaye
pending investigations
on the subject of the
rates of work generall
which being deemed
exorbitant, the Hon
Sir W Robinson suggest
~~that~~ the matter shoul
be considered & report
on by a Committee

The late reorganiza
of ~~the~~ department ~~ha~~
interposed Superintendin
Engineers in the ~~actual~~
supervising agency

effected by reducing the thickness of walls &c — and again by the more extensive use of sheet iron (not less than No 24 gauge) in roofing instead of corrugated iron which is nearly three times as expensive — Were large structures contemplated the use of a Hoffman & Licht's Kiln would reduce the expensive item of fuel by 60 or 70 %.

These and other matters will necessarily engage my attention in future and in the meanwhile I would beg to suggest that the designs and Estimates for the combined Post & Tel Office be sent with the annexed letter (in draft) to the G of I.

5/5/79

22

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

No. 1240

Fort Saint George,
Accountant General's Office,
26th March 1879

FROM THE Offg ACCOUNTANT GENERAL
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

TO THE Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Fort Saint George.

SIR,

With reference to your memo No 977 dated the 18th Instant I have the honor to state that the only item which forms a debit against "Provincial Services" is the Rs 50 paid for the quarters occupied by the Inspector General of Jails. A sum of Rs 60 paid for the Office of the Conservator of Forests forms a debit against the Budget Grant for that Department.

2 The rent paid for the buildings occupied by the Post and Telegraph Offices likewise forms a debit against their respective departments, though the charge does not appear separately in the accounts rendered to this Office.

With

3 With reference to the item of Rupees 40 against "Revenue Survey Office" I have to state that the officers of that Department receive a fixed Office accommodation allowance which is treated as a charge of the Revenue Survey Department.

4 The charge in connection with buildings occupied by Military Officers and Departments is a Military charge while that incidental to the annual movement of the Government offices to the Hills, is met from the amount annually set apart for that purpose under Grant 16. Administration minor head "Civil Secretariats".-

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obed. Servt

J. Westland

Offg. Accountt General

A.P.

In Pro. 917-7-79 No. 1885 W.

1879 DEPARTMENT.

ACCTT. GENL.'S OFFICE, MADRAS.

No.

FROM

THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, MADRAS,

To The Secretary to Govt.
P. W. Depart.

Dated
Recd.
Ansd.
} No. of answer.

Subject.

States that the only item which forms a debit against "Provincial Services" is the Rs 50 paid for the quarters occupied by the Inspector Genl. of Jails.

G.O. 14-11-61 No. 1522 Pub. Depr.
" 9-6-62 " 682
" 17-6-62 " 1377
" 23-12-62 " 1498
" 26-7-78 " 3763 Mily. Depr.
C.G. 18-3-79 " 979
" 26-9-78 " 4263
" 25-9-78 " 4334
" 1-3-79 " 801
" 31-10-78 " 4923
" 10-8-78 " 3533
" 23-8-78 " 3757
" 11-11-78 " 5766
" 16-10-78 " 4665
" 4-10-78 " 4500

G.O. No. 1885 W. of 17-7-79

Cir. 28/3.

P. W. D.

24

Letter from the Accountant General

No. 1240/~~1212~~ 171, dated 26th March 1879.

Circulated for information, and further instructions, with reference to the Hon'ble Mr. Hudleston's remarks on the note from this office of the 13th March.

2. It will be seen that the only charge for office accommodation at Ootacamund, devolving on Provincial services, is the amount (Rs 50), paid for the quarters occupied by the Inspector General

Under these circs. I wd. not add to Stonehouse. The Army Hd. Qrs. Offices are no part of the Govt. Secretariat & I don't know that the convenience wd. be promoted by concentration at Stonehouse. They cost Govt. abt. Rs. 200 monthly for I suppose about 6 mos. in the year. It is debited to Mil.: say Rs. 1200 yearly = 6 p.c. on Rs. 20000. I don't of Jails.

28/3. Maintenance
Col: A.E.

Ag. Secy: to Govt. P.W.D.

March 1879.

Vide
28/3

Suppose there wd. provide the a wd. accommodn. at the [illegible] House [illegible] if [illegible] constant. While the repairs be wd. & other [illegible] covered by the present [illegible]

Cir 28/3.

District Engineer's Office
Ootacamund d/ 19th August 1878

No. 2[illegible]

From
The District Engineer
Nilgiris

To
The Secretary to Government
D. P. W.
Madras

Sir

With reference to G. O. No. 250 of 14th June 1878, I respectfully beg to invite attention to Para 2 of my letter No. 445 of 24th December 18 printed with G.O. No. 196 of 25th Janua 1876, which contains the causes that led to the cost of the combined Office so far exceeding that originally conjectu

2. For facility of reference I beg to be allowed to here quote that para

"I regret that this detailed estima
" so much exceeds the Rupees 20000 nam
" in my letter No. 289 of the 31st Augt. 18
" printed with Public G. O. No. 2609 of the
" 10th September 1875. I beg to subm
" the following explanation:- when

"I stated in that letter that the
"building would cost Rupees 20,000
"I had only prepared a ground plan,
"and no Elevation or Section. The rough
"Calculations which were made came
"to 18,000 Rupees. I thought 20,000 Rupees
"would be a safe margin. I now see
"the figure ought to have been Rupees
"25,000. The plans that were afterwards
"prepared were first designed so that the
"living rooms should be below and
"the Public rooms above. By this
"arrangement the lower storey rooms
"were of moderate height, the gables
"of the roof giving sufficient air space
"for the upper Office rooms. Government
not approving of this arrangement,
the design now sent was prepared
with the Office rooms below and
an additional room for the Post-
-master General with out houses, a
covered gallery &c. In order that the
lower Office rooms might be well
lighted and ventilated I raised their
walls. The design was urgently required
and sent in in a hurry; no kind
of estimate was made; hence the

discrepancy in the figures. I beg
send the first plan for compariso

I have the honor to
Sir
Your most Obedt. Servant
Jesse Mirant Major R. E
District Engineer

G.O. No 2154 d/ 27-7-75
" — " 2609 " — 10-9-75
" — " 196 — " — 25-1-76
" — " 1347W — 15-3-78
" — " 2504W — 14-6-78.

Roads & Buildings

From

The District Engr
Nilgiris

To

The Secretary to Govt
P. W. D
Madras.

No 203
Dated 7 Augt 78
No. of Enclosures 0

C.E. No 3553 d/10th Aug

Combined Post and Telegraph Offices at Ootacamund - Submits explanations with reference to the cost - so far exceeding that originally conjectured as called for in G. O. No 2504 of 14th June 1878

101 A

O.L. Skeel 25 Augt

District Engineer's Office
Ootacamund 17th Septr 1878

No. 246

From

The District Engineer
Nilgiris

To

The Chief Engineer
P. W. D.
Ootacamund

Sir

In reply to your Memorandum No. 3533 dated 10th August 1878 regarding the estimates for the Ootacamund Post and Telegraph Offices, I have the honor to report that the Combined Post and Telegraph Offices were estimated to cost approximately Rs 20,000; and in detail Rs 32,000.

2. A separate building for the Telegraph Office alone was estimated on a plan (without sections or elevations) furnished by the Consulting Architect to approximately cost Rs 16,000 subsequently raised to 20,000. [vide para

3 of my letter printed with P. W. D. G.O. No. 196 of 25th January 1876]. Detailed Plans of a separate Telegraph Office subsequently prepared by me were estimated to cost Rs 32,900 and 25,200 as mentioned in the conclusion of your Memorandum. See also P. W. D. G. O. No. 1346 W dated 15th March 1878.

3. If you will kindly again refer to paras one and 2 of my letter printed with P. W. D. G. O. No. 196 of the 25th January 1876, you will see that they fully explain the difference between the regular and approximate estimates for the combined Post and Telegraph Offices

4. A sum of Rs 3,000 was also estimated to place the present Post Office in repair, but this was merely to make the present incommodious building temporarily safe and comfortable. It was in no way intended to improve it. [vide para 5 of my letter printed with P. W. D. G. O. No. 196 dated 25th January 1876]

5. I beg to take this opportunity of submitting a fresh design for a combined Post and Telegraph Office in which it is proposed to entirely remove the present building, to lower its site to the level of the basement of the (smaller) Breeks's Memorial School and to erect an entirely+ new building for a combined Post and Telegraph Office on the design alluded to in P. W. D. G. O. No. 196 dated 25th January 1876 and approved in para 3 of P. W. D. G. O. No. 1346 W dated 15th March 1878. This will cost in all Rs 31,100 + 4,100 = 35,200 as per+ a separate plan and estimate attached. A detached Telegraph Office will alone cost at least Rs 25,200 excluding excavation for site and compensation for land which will raise it to at least Rs 29,200. I have never estimated for a separate Post Office, but merely for placing the present building in a good state of temporary repair and comfort, this I anticipate will cost Rs 3,000. Thus, a new separate Telegraph Office

+ Not recd: in Madras

and the present Post Office put into thorough repair but in no way altered or improved will cost Rs 32,200 [vide end of para 2 Government of India letter printed with P. W. D. G. O. No. 2504 W dated 14th June 1878]. But this latter arrangement although cheaper by Rs 3,000 will leave the present Post Office perched upon an inaccessible hillock which no carriage can approach and will inconveniently divide the 2 Offices from each other, and will merely furnish a Post Office of the incommodious and objectionable kind now standing, and which I feel sure will sooner or later have to be removed or rebuilt. The present Post Office is also a very ugly structure quite out of keeping with its surrounding buildings. Moreover the removal of the present inconvenient building and the lowering of its site will improve the poor light and ventilation of the Commissioners' Office, collateral objects of some importance.

6. Therefore as altogether the best method of satisfactorily meeting the case I beg respectfully to submit the present proposal for erecting a combined Post Office and Telegraph Office on the site on which the old Post Office now stands.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
J. L. Morant Major R. E.
District Engineer

Roads & Buildings

From

The District Engineer
Nilgiris

To

The Chief Engr
P. W. D.
Ootacamund

No. 246

Dated 17th Septr 1878

Enclosures. 4 {3 Plans
{1 Estimate

Combined Post and Telegraph Office Ootacamund
– Submits a fresh design for a – with reference to his Memo No. 3533 dated the 10th August 1878.

1013

Cir 13/3

O. L. Sheet 6th Septr.

Postmaster General's Office
Camp Ooty 23rd September 1878

No. A 9/1

To,

The Chief Engineer,
Department of Public Works,
Ootacamund.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 4263 of the 20th September 1878, forwarding to me a letter from the District Engineer Nilgiris No. 246 dated 17th September 1878.

2. In this letter Major Merrint proposes that the Postal Department shall abandon the old building and hand it and the site over for the erection of a Combined Post and Telegraph Office.

3. He explains that we have misunderstood him in our assumption that the extra accommodation we require can be afforded for Rs 3000, for in point of fact, this sum of money would only suffice for making the building watertight and comfortable & would not provide for enlargement.

4. It is understood from para 5 that a detached Telegraph Office will cost Rupees 29200; but that, if we give up the site of the Post Office, it can be built for Rs 25200 and that accommodation for us can be provided in a Combined building costing Rs 35200. The Director General of Post Offices objected to the Combined building, as formerly proposed, on the ground that it would not be proper, seeing that the two Departments are not equally destitute of convenient buildings, that

the cost should be equally divided between them. And I conjecture that a proposal of this nature would now call up a similar objection. I think therefore that it would tend to an easier settlement of the case if you were able to tell us what proportion of the cost of the building should be debited to each Department, and I submit that the accommodation we afford by surrendering the convenient site should be taken into consideration in framing this account: or, without asking for an exact estimate, we should like to be told what it would cost, approximately, to so alter the present old building as to make it more comfortable, commodious and approachable.

5 The accommodation provided in the plans for the Post Office and for the Postmaster's quarters are very suitable. The proposal to erect the new building on the site of the old after knocking it down and removing the boss of earth on which it stands, seems highly practical and convenient.

6. I shall refer the whole question to the Director General of the Post Office and I shall have the honor of communicating his opinion to you.

7. I have the honor to return the following papers:—

A. Letter from the District Engineer to Chief Engineer No. 246.
B. Detailed plans Estimates & specification of the Postmaster's residence.
C. Government of Madras, Public Works No. 140-141.
D. Letter from the Director General of Telegraphs to the Secretary to Government Public Works Department Madras No. 1853 Simla 14th August 1878.

and

and reply thereto from the Madras Government No. 3757.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obt Servant
W. Turner
Ag Postmaster General

RW 12564/7

1016

O. L. Sheet 88 Schl—

No. 257

District Engineer's Office
Ootacamund 26th Septr 1878

P9 37

From

The District Engineer
Nilagiris

To

The Chief Engineer
Public Works Department
Ootacamund

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge your Memorandum No. 4334 dated the 25th Instant with accompanying letter from the Post Master General (herewith returned)

2. With reference to para 4 of the Post Master General's letter I have the honor to report that of the estimated cost of Rs 35,200 for a combined Edifice Rs 15,200 is the share of the accommodation

provided in the Plans and Estimate for the Postal Department. But if, as is perhaps proper, allowance is to be made to the Postal Department for the site and present building, the Madras Government might perhaps be disposed to meet a charge of Rs 3,200 which may fairly be stated to represent the concessions made by that Department. For the value of the materials of the present building used in the new structure Rs 6,080 have been deducted from the estimate already submitted. The case would then stand thus:—

		Rs
Debitable to the Telegraph Deptt		20,000
Do	" Postal Department	12,000
Do	" Madras Government	3,200
	Total Rupees	35,200

3. With regard to the concluding portion of para 4 of the Post Master General's letter I have the honor to state that the present building is really unapproachable: No carriage drive can ever be made to it. Nor do I think the structure itself is capable of improvement: The building is a low dark unventilated flat roofed edifice designed when constructed for quite another purpose than that to which it has of late been put.

I have the honor to be
Sir
your most obedient Servant
J. L. L. Morant. Major R.E.

District Engineer

No. 2154 of 24.7.75
" 2809 - 10.9.75
" 196 - 25.1.76.
" 203 - 3.2.75
" 496 W - 31.7.77.
" 1346 W - 15.3.78.
" 1347 W - 15.3.78.
" 2504 W - 14.8.78.
C.E. 3533 - 10.8.78.
" 3757 - 23.8.78.
" 4263 - 20.9.78.
" 4334 - 26.9.78.
" 4500 4.10.78
" 4665 16.10.78
" 4923 31.10.78

1018

Cir 13/3/79
Cir 28.9.78 Retd 12.10.78.
P. C. Rul 102 Septe

Roads And Buildings

From No. 12554

The District Engineer
Nilgiris

To

The Chief Engineer
Public Works Departt
Ootacamund

No. 57
Dated 26th September 1878
Number of enclosures 1

Combined Post and Telegraph Office at Ootacamund - Reports about a - with reference to his Memorandum No. 4334 dated the 25th Instt -

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No. A/C

Supg Engrs Office
Camp Ootacamund
29th April 1879

From
The Superintending Engineer
4th Circle

To
The Chief Engineer
Public Works Departt

Sir,

Enclosures 2.

I have the honor to report that in accordance with the instructions contained in your letter No. 2 dated 22nd Instant I have carefully investigated the rates for work entered in the estimate for the combined Post and Telegraph Offices proposed to be built at Ootacamund; and as directed I beg to submit an analysis of the data (under labor and material) for each of the more important items of work in the design.

2 To further illustrate the subject and to enable an opinion to be formed as to the reasonableness

or otherwise of these rates I also enclose a statement showing the cost of labour carriage and work on the Nilgiris compared with that in the adjoining Districts of Coimbatore Malabar and Salem, from which you will observe that with the exception of the items for plastering, pointing and flooring with square bricks (which are unnecessarily high and which will be noticed hereafter) the rates for the other description of work are not very much out of the way considering the circumstances under which the operations of the Depmt are carried out on the Hills.

3. On the Nilgiris the cost of unskilled labour is 100 per cent that of skilled labour 50 per cent and carriage 70 per cent more than on the plains: and making due allowance for the extra cost of carrying lime up the Ghâts

I

I am of opinion that if the difficulties in procuring firewood were removed and some better arrangements were allowed for the manufacture of bricks the cost on these Hills of the principal item of expenditure by this Department viz) "Bricks in mortar" might be reduced from 100 to 75 per cent over the cost of similar work on the plains.

4. In the first place every 100 cubic feet of brick work built by the Public Works Department at Ootacamund is handicapped by a charge of Rs 3-9-7 for carriage this is owing to the brick kilns being situated some miles out of the station instead of being as close as possible to the building to be constructed as is done in almost every other part of the world. I would therefore suggest that the

manufacture of Bricks and Tiles be permitted in the brick fields which were opened out some years ago at the back of the Government Office or at any other place convenient to works in progress this would in no way interfere with the occupants of the Government office, as brick making on the Hills can only be carried out from October to March when the Government is usually at Madras, and the manufacture of bricks is evidently not objected to by the permanent residents of the place or by the Municipality judging from the numerous private kilns that may be seen along every public road. By the removal of the brick fields to a more convenient site a saving of Rs 2 per 1000 bricks may be anticipated in carriage alone.

5 Again the Anomaly of all Government buildings under construction on the Hills having to pay a seigniorage of Rs 2 from every bandy load of fuel used in their construction has I take it merely to be properly represented to be removed. It is quite reasonable that the Forest Department should be credited in their account (if it is considered a matter of vital importance to do so) with the value of all firewood used on Public Works, even although the sholas from which the firewood is taken were in existence long before the Forest Department was thought of and with the growth of which they have had nothing whatever to do. But I cannot think that it is the intention of the Madras Government that the grants for Public Works sanctioned from Imperial Sources

should be reduced by this seigneorage. If Govt would allow firewood to be taken by the Public Works Department at their own expense (subject of course to all the Forest rules) and if some slight improvements were introduced in the arrangement at the Brick fields so as to obviate the necessity of carrying the raw bricks up hill to the kilns a further saving of at least three Rupees for 1000 bricks would be the result.

6. The rate of Rs 4 per cubic foot of teakwood wrought and put up is I consider reasonable as the wood has to be raised several thousand feet before reaching the plateau. The teakwood of the Indian Forests is of a superior quality when properly selected, but it would probably not be supplied in sufficient size or quantity if a large building had to be constructed and

recourse

recourse to Burmah teak would be necessary. The Burmah teak I find can be obtained either at Madras or Negapatam for Rs 80 a Ton which is a little cheaper than the rate charged by the Forest Department at Ootacamund

7. With reference to the rates Rs 10 per square for Plastering and Rs 12 per square for pointing which are 300 and 700 percent dearer than similar work on the plains, it would appear to be the intention of the Executive Engineer to work up the exterior of his buildings more than is usually done in other parts of the country. These rates I would reduce to Rs 8 per square for plastering and Rs 3 for pointing

8. The work flooring with square tiles Rs 58 per square I am informed has not usually been carried out on the Hills which perhaps accounts for the discrepancies in the data on which the rates

has been framed. The rate for this description of work should be reduced to Rs 32 per square as corrected in the margin of the statement

9 In conclusion I have the honor to observe that there are at present over 3 lakhs of bricks in stock at the Govt. Brick fields so that whatever saving may be effected in future in carrying out the suggestions made above the rate for brick work in mortar in the estimate for the combined Post and Telegraph offices will not be affected, as the material in hand is just sufficient to complete this work

10 I must, however, not end this report on the rates in the Nilgiri Division without bringing to your notice that although the rates have materially increased within late years owing to the rise in the price of labour, material, and carriage the Executive Engineer who has been in charge of the Division for the past 12 years has evidently tried his best to keep them within moderate bounds first by the proposal to manufacture bricks within the Station - and again by the discontinuance of the practice of carrying lime stone instead of lime which is much lighter up the Ghats

11 As the working season is advancing I have the honor to request that very early orders may be passed on the estimate in question to enable me to utilize the grants provided in the current years Budget.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedt. Servant
Major RE
Supg Engineer 1st Circle

Office
4th Circle
9th July 1879.

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From

The Supg Engineer

4th Circle

To The Chief Engineer

P.W.D.

No. A/C

Dated 29th April 1879
Recd

Pro of 17-7-79 No. 1885 W

Enclosures 2

Rates of Works for the Combined Post and Telegraph offices Ooty

Reports regarding the

Kept with not returned from circulation. N.T. 12/5

101 E

Cir 13-5-79. Ftd 17-5-79.
O.L. Rheil 5 May

No. 445

Supg Engineer's Office 4th Circle
Coimbatore 9th July 1879.

From.

The Superintending Engineer
Fourth Circle

To

The Chief Engineer
P.W. Department
Madras.

Sir,

Enclosures 5.
3. Tracings —
1. Estimate of Rs. 31,100 with specification for Constructing Combined Post & Telegraph Office at Ootacamund —
1. do. do of Rs. 5100 with do for Constg Quarters for the Post Master at Do.
5.

With reference to your Memo No. 2045 dated 2d June 1879. I have the honor to forward 3 Tracings of Plans of Combined Post and Telegraph Office, Proposed Quarters for the Post Master at Ootacamund and Tracing shewing section of site of the Building, with two Estimates amounting to Rupees 36,200 as per margin.

2. In Submitting the above Estimates, I have the honor to point out that the total amount of

the Estimate for the proposed Quarters for Post master, sent with Nilgiri District Engineer's letter No. 246 dated 17th September 1878, should be Rs. 5,200 instead of Rupees 4200 as the District Engineer has erroneously deducted the amount of Out-houses in the Estimate which should have been made in the Estimate of Combined Post and Telegraph Office - These corrections have now been made in the accompanying Estimates.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedt. Servant.

Supg Engineer 4 Circle

From
The Supg: Engineer,
Fourth Circle.

Pro G 17-7-79 No. 1885

Dated 9th July 1879
Recd:

No. 445
Enc: 5

Combined Post and Telegraph Office at Ootacamund.—

Forwarding Estimates amounting to Rs: 36,200 together with tracings for a—

1017

S.O. No. 2504,
dated 14th June, 1878.

Draft for approval
G.O.

No. 1885 W a/17th July/79

Read again
Govt. Ro: No. 2504 dated
14 June, 1878

Read also
letters from the
D.E., Nilgiri, No. 203 d/7 Aug. 78
" " " 246 " 17 Sept. 78
Post Master Genl., No. A 2/1 " 23 " "
D.E., Nilgiri, No. 257 " 26 " "
S.E. IV Circle No. 4/... d/29 April 1879
S.E. IV Circle no 445, dated 9-7-79

The Government of India having enquired under what circumstances the cost of the project for building (the) combined offices for the Postal and Telegraph depts. at Ootacamund, as a separate Telegraph office, had increased so largely, the D.E., Nilgiri, was, in the marginal Government Proceedings, directed to report briefly on the subject.

2. Major Morant refers to his letter recorded with Govt. Order of the 25th January, 1876

as containing explanation of the cause of increase in the amount of the Estimates, and submits another estimate for an entirely new combined office, to be built in accordance with the original design, on the site of the old post-office, which is to be demolished and its materials made use of for the new building; while the ground is to be lowered to the level of the Memorial School. The cost of this project, for which estimates in detail have been prepared, amounts to Rs. 35,200; the share of the Telegraph Dept: being fixed by Major Morant at Rs 20,000.

3. In consideration of the fact that the site belongs to the Postal Dept:, it is proposed by the late District Engineer to allow that Dept: compensation to the extent of Rs. 3200,

to be reimbursed by Government. This proposal is perfectly inadmissible; the whole cost of the building must be borne by the two Depts. concerned, in such proportions as may be decided by the Directors General: the Governor in Council is not prepared to accept any charge against Provincial funds on this account.

4. The Post-Master-General approves the proposal to erect a combined ~~building~~ offices, but the Director General of Post Offices is strongly opposed to his dept. sharing a building with the Telegraph dept. He, however, consents to waive his objections on condition that the site remains the Post Office site, and

that, should ~~[illegible]~~ it be hereafter necessary that one department should vacate the building, that department is to be the Telegraph.

5. His Grace the Governor in Council is satisfied that the proposal to erect new combined offices will, ~~[illegible]~~ in the long run, be the more economical, and resolves to forward Major Morant's Cost Estimate to the Government of India with an expression of his opinion to that effect.

6. The conditions on which the Director General of Post Offices is prepared to accept the combined building must be discussed between himself and the Director-General of Telegraphs.

~~7. His Grace in Council is not, however, prepared to allow any new buildings~~

To Secy. W India

5/5/79

3b/5/79

S.E. 4th Circle.
Post Master General

Despatched ~~29.7.79~~ 5.8.79

G.O. 7346(A)W. 15-3-78
" 2504 W. 14-6-78.

7. Ordered that the following letter be sent to the Govt of India

H.E. No. 1886 W. dated 18th July/79

To the Secretary
India

Sir,

In reply to the Dy. Secretary's letter No 453 PG of the 20th May/78, with reference to and previous correspondence, I am directed to forward Proceedings of this Government under date the 25th Jan/79, No. 196, recording a letter from Major Morant, the District Engineer of the Nilgiris, which supplies the information desired in Col: Innes' fourth paragraph.

2. I am also to forward the marginal Proceedings covering proposals by the District Engineer for building a new Combined Post & Telegraph Office on the site of the old Post Office, with detailed estimates to the amount of Rs: 34,100—

3. It will be seen that the Director General of Post Offices attaches certain conditions to the consent unwillingly given by him to arrangements under which his Department would have to share the building with the Telegraph Department. It will be for the Directors General of the two Departments concerned to discuss these conditions between themselves, and to decide in what proportions the cost of the building is to be borne by their Departments.

No. dated Aug 1874

4. I am to state that His Grace the Governor in Council is satisfied that the present proposals will eventually be found to be more economical than any under which the two Offices are kept separate

5. The high rates of the estimate are, I am directed to state, mainly due to the difficulty with which labor is obtained on the Nilgiris. A careful scrutiny has shown that only some slight reductions are feasible, but no effort will be spared to keep them as low as possible consistent with sound construction ~~[illegible] being reduced~~ ~~by the [illegible]~~ ~~as far as they can possibly~~ ~~be~~.

6. His Grace in Council is anxious that early and final orders should be passed on the proposals, in order that due provision for the execution

of the work may be made in the Budget of 1880-81, the late orders of the Govt of India regarding restriction of expenditure preventing the commencement of the building in the present official year.

A.G.
12/5

12/5/79

D/2

Despatched
with 3 plans & estimates

~~29.7.79~~
5.8.79

Cn 5190

Govt. of [1879] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G. O. 17 July 1879. No. 1885 to 1886

Nos. 101 - 103

Combined Post & Telegraph Office at Ootacamund

The Estimates for a — forwarded with remarks to the Govt.

Combined Post & Telegraph Office at Ootacamund

6