

(1) Number of pages 20
(2) Date of repair 8-12-86
(3) Initials of the Referencer lung

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	3-4 W	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	3-1-1880	197 .

A.K

Not to be folded or roughly handled

3-4
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

3rd January 1880, No. 3 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read the following paper:—

No. 1. Endorsement of the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Financial Department, dated Fort St. George, 27th December 1879, No. 2,503.
From the Hon. P. MACEADYEN, Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 24th December 1879.

THE members of the Chamber of Commerce have learnt with much regret that the proposed grant for the new Post and Telegraph Offices at Madras has been struck out of the Budget for 1880-81.

With the Proceedings of the Madras Government before them, dated 2nd April 1879, intimating that the Government of India had directed the Abercrombie's Battery site should be reserved for the above offices, that Rs. 1,00,000 had been sanctioned for the buildings in the current year's budget, and that the Consulting Architect had been directed to put the work in hand forthwith, the Chamber had hoped that this vexed question, which has now been under discussion for nearly twelve years, had been finally settled. The Chamber can only assume now that the grant of money has been withheld on account of the financial exigencies of the moment, and if this assumption be correct, they claim the right, as large contributors to the postal and telegraph revenue, to question the reasonableness and justice of the decision arrived at by the Supreme Government. If the Madras Post Office and Telegraph establishments occupied Government Offices, even though these offices might be inconvenient both as regards size and situation, the Chamber could understand that, in times of financial pressure, the Government would hesitate to spend money in building new offices. But the Madras Government have for many years past been renting buildings for the accommodation of the Post and Telegraph establishments, and during that period have paid away very considerable sums in respect of house-rent. The Chamber understand that the Chief Post Office in Popham's Broadway (which has no space for the accommodation of the Postmaster-General and his establishment, who are located in another rented building,) has been rented for upwards of twenty years at about Rs. 400 per month, while the Telegraph Office has been rented for about the same period at Rs. 200 per month. Like that for the Post Office, the rent of the Telegraph Office will probably be an increasing item as the work of the department increases. It will thus be sufficiently apparent to Government that a sum has already been paid away in the shape of rent for the above offices which would have gone a long way towards erecting the new offices on the beach, the necessity for which has been felt for the last twelve years, both by the public and the departments. Considering the permanent character of institutions like the Post and Telegraph, and that the tendency of such departments is to expand with the growth and civilisation of the native community, the Chamber must express their surprise that the Government of India should so persistently neglect to provide economical and convenient accommodation for the Postal and Telegraph Departments in Madras.

The Chamber beg to call your attention to the following statistics, taken from the last "Statistical Abstract" presented to Parliament by way of emphasising the necessity that exists for a new central Post Office and Telegraph Office in Madras. The following figures show the number of letters, newspapers, parcels, and packets received for delivery in Madras during the last ten years:—

1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
12,167,455	13,170,747	13,410,912	13,932,227	14,700,240	15,615,301	16,891,669	20,121,555	21,919,267	23,415,876

It will be seen that the Post Office work has nearly doubled during the above period, and the Chamber are gratified to observe that the increase is considerably greater in this Presidency than in other parts of India. The receipts of the Indian Telegraph Department have increased in the same period from £114,499 in 1869 to £306,089 in 1878, and it is fair to assume that a good portion of this increase should be credited to this Presidency.

The Chamber trust that they have said enough not only to induce the Government of India to reconsider their decision, but to convince them that the interests of all concerned will be best served by building the new Post and Telegraph Offices without further delay.

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Chief Secretary.

No. 2.

ORDER THEREON, 3rd January 1880, No. 3 W.

ORDERED that the Government of India be addressed.

(Here enter No. 4 W., dated 3rd January 1880.)

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Gobi. of (1880) Madras
PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated January 3rd.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 3rd January 1880, No. 3 W.

JANUARY.

Nos. 1-2.

New Post and Telegraph Office at Madras.
—Letter from the local Chamber of
Commerce relative to the non-provision of
funds in the ensuing official year for the —
forwarded to the Government of India.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

No. 4 W.

No. 3.

FROM

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

TO

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

SIR,—I am directed to forward, for consideration by the Governor-General in Council, a letter from the local Chamber of Commerce in regard to the refusal of the Government of India to provide funds in the ensuing official year for the new Post and Telegraph Offices at Madras.

2. I am to request that the correspondence which has in former years passed between this Government and the Government of India on the subject of this building may be read in connection with the Chairman's letter.

3. A separate communication is about to be addressed to the Government of India regarding the insufficiency of the reduced grants for this Presidency under Imperial Military. The smallness of the provision for works under Imperial Other Services will be best seen from the following table:—

Province.	Demand.	Grant.
Madras	3,03,946	99,946
Bombay	7,19,700	3,54,913
Bengal	6,26,776	4,88,391
North-West Provinces	5,78,660	3,91,550
Punjab	1,47,373	1,15,747
Rajputana	3,60,296	2,35,496
Central India	5,23,060	3,74,000

4. In the case of the Madras Post and Telegraph Office, it is noticed that the reason assigned for striking out the demand was that the Director-General of Telegraphs did not want the building.

* Para. 9 of Government of India Resolution, No. 534-51 A.—G., dated Nov. 13th 1879.

5. It appears to His Grace the Governor in Council that the urgent representations which have for the last ten years been made by those best situated for judging of the necessity for the building might well be allowed greater weight in the balance of opinion. Moreover, the question needs to be looked at from a postal as well as a telegraph point of view.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
3rd January 1880.

Ed. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1880) Madras
PUBLIC WORKS.

THE SECRETARY TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Dated January 3rd.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 3rd January 1890, No. 4 W.

JANUARY.
No. 3.

On the non-provision of funds in the
ensuing official year for the new Post and
Telegraph Office at Madras, and the insuffi-
ciency of the reduced grants for this
Presidency.

13/4 P1.
Chamber of Commerce
Madras 24 December 1879

From

The Hon. Mr. Macpherson,
Chairman, Chamber of Commerce
to The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort St. George

The members of the Chamber
of Commerce have learnt with much
regret that the proposed grant for
the new Post and Telegraph Office at
Madras has been struck out of the
Budget for 1880-81.

With the proceedings of the
Madras Government before them dated
2nd April 1879, intimating that the
Government of India had directed
the Abercrombie Battery site should
be

be reserved for the above offices, that
Rs 1,00,000 had been sanctioned for the
buildings in the current year's Budget,
and that the Consulting architect
had been directed to put the work
in hand forthwith, the Chamber
had hoped that this vexed question,
which has now been under discussion
for nearly twelve years, had been finally
settled. The Chamber can only assume
now that the grant of money has been
withheld on account of the financial
exigencies of the moment, and if this
assumption be correct, they claim
the right, as large contributors to
the postal and telegraph revenue,

82 23/4
to question the reasonableness and justice
of the decision arrived at by the
Supreme Government. If the Madras
Post office and Telegraph establishments
occupied Government officers, even though
these officers might be inconvenient both
as regards age and situation, the Chamber
could understand that, in times of
financial pressure, the Government
would hesitate to spend money
in building new offices. But the
Madras Government have for many
years past been renting buildings for
the accommodation of the Post and
Telegraph establishments, and during
that period have paid away very

considerable

Considerable sums in respect of
house rent. The Chamber under-
stand that the Chief Post Office
in Poplar's Broadway (which has
no space for the accommodation
of the Post Master General and
his establishment, who are located
in another rented building) has been
rented for upwards of 20 years at
about Rs 400 per month; while the Tele-
graph office has been rented for about
the same period at Rs 200 per month.
Like that for the Post office, the rent
of the Telegraph office will probably
be an increasing item as the work
of the Department increases. It will

133
thus be sufficiently apparent to Govern-
ment that a sum has already been
paid away in the shape of rent
for the above office which would
have gone a long way towards erect-
ing the new offices on the Beach, the
necessity for which has been felt for
the last twelve years, both by the
public and the Department. Considering
the permanent character of institutions
like the Post and Telegraph, and that
the tendency of such departments is
to expand with the growth and
civilization of the native Community,
the Chamber must express their
surprise that the Government of
India

India should so persistently neglect
to provide economical and convenient
accommodation for the Postal and
Telegraph Departments in Madras.

The Chamber beg to
call your attention to the following
Statistics, taken from the last Statistical
Abstract presented to Parliament,
by way of emphasizing the necessity
that exists for a new central Post
Office and Telegraph Office in Madras.
The following figures show the number
of letters, newspapers, parcels and
packets received for delivery in Madras
during the last ten years.

1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878
12,167,455	13,170,747	13,410,312	13,722,227	14,702,246	16,145,201	18,871,667	20,491,553	21,974,267	22,415,876

Page 10

It will be seen that the Post
Office work has nearly doubled during
the above period, and the Chamber
are gratified to observe that the
increase is considerably greater in
this Presidency than in other parts
of India. The receipts of the Indian
Telegraph Department have increased
in the same period from £ 114,477
in 1869 to £ 306,089 in 1878, and it is
fair to assume that a good portion
of this increase should be credited
to this Presidency.

The Chamber trust that
they have said enough not only
to induce the Government of India
to reconsider their decision, but
to

Ng Ching Sack

am to request that
 correspondence which
 is in former years
 ofed between this
 Government and the
 Government of India
 on the subject of
 this building may
 be read in connection
 with the Chairman's
 letter.

A separate communication
 is about to be addressed
 to the Govt. of India
 regarding the insufficiency
 of the ~~fund~~ reduced
 grant for this Presidency
 under Imperial Military.

The smallest of the
 provision for works under
 Imperial Other Services
 will be lost seen from
 the following table:-

P7 3/4

<u>Province</u>	<u>Demand</u>	<u>Grant</u>
Bombay	303,946	99,946
Bombay	7,19,700	3,54,913
Bengal	1,26,776	4,38,391
M. P.	5,78,660	3,91,550
Punjab	1,47,373	1,15,747
Hyderabad	3,60,296	2,35,496
Central India	5,23,000	3,74,000

4. In the case of the
 Indian Post and Telegraph
 Offices, ~~and of the~~
 it is noticed that
 the amount assigned
 for striking out the
 demand was that
 the Director General
 of Telegraphs did
 not want the building.

5. It appears to this
 from the statement in
 Council that the
 largest representations
 which have for
 the last two years

* para 9 of Govt. of
 India Resolution
 No 534-51 dt-8
 dated Nov 13th 1917.

has made to those
but ~~intended~~ ^{calculated} for ~~copying~~

~~for a of a~~
of the necessity for
the building right
in ~~which~~ ^{with} he allowed
greater ~~bright~~ in the
~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the}
~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the}

~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the}

the parties made to

be tested at present

a packet as well

as a telegraphic packet

of wire.

AM

31/12/77

Sent to 2, 4 India
with copy of letter
from C of Commerce

3-1-1878

S. C. Daskal

15-1-80