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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

PN

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

1811 (W)

Press.
Mis.

Dated

22. 7.

1881

~~190~~

VB

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1811
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

22nd July 1881, No. 1,811 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read the following paper :—

No. 46. From Major A. T. FRASER, R.E., Officiating Consulting Architect to Government, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk, 4th July 1881.

I HAVE the honor to draw attention to the great value of testing the practicability of direct telephone communication between Ootacamund and Madras.

2. All that is necessary for the purpose is to procure a couple of Gower-Bell Telephones, price £12 each, and connect them to each end of the Government telegraph wire between the two places.

3. The wire, I imagine, is free during the night, and the experiment could no doubt be conducted by the Telegraph Department with very little trouble, and I may say no expense.

4. Taking a personal interest in the scientific part of the question I would take it as a favor if the Telegraph Department permitted me to be present when the experiment was made.

5. I endeavoured to show in a professional paper in the last quarterly number, "Roorkee Professional Papers on Indian Engineering," that it was theoretically possible to speak distinctly over a much greater distance than Madras to Ootacamund, and I would refer to this paper "On Telephone Apparatus" for further details.

6. I made special inquiries in America and ascertained that a really long length of wire had not been spoken over, and merely it appeared to me because no one had taken the trouble to try.

7. With very indifferent apparatus I succeeded in hearing at Bangalore sounds at Bellary in 1879, and the Gower-Bell apparatus is so much superior and fuller toned to anything I then used that it can hardly fail to be satisfactory and decisive.

8. On very long lines states of the atmosphere occasionally disturb the sound, and this is one reason why telephones have come so slowly into use. But experiments seem alone required to mitigate this defect.

9. I need not say there is much business of one kind and another which is with difficulty transacted through the ordinary telegraph.

10. It would be an especial advantage to this office to be able to discuss verbally for quarter of an hour or so the details of a work or design if a telephone were available when the line was clear of messages.

NOTE.—The Telegraph Department could probably get the Gower-Bell Telephones from the Company at Calcutta.

No. 46-A. From R. B. FLINDELL, Esq., Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 9th July 1881, No. 1,430.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your No. 255 of the 7th instant, with annexure (herewith returned), regarding the practicability of direct telephone communication between Ootacamund and Madras, and in reply to state that I am about making experiments to test the practical value of the Gower-Bell Telephone, two of which I have. Before testing them through such a long length of wire as that between Madras and Ootacamund, it will be as well to first ascertain if they will work satisfactorily through a much shorter length.

2. To work the telephone between Madras and Ootacamund, should it be practical to do so, of which I am very doubtful for reasons I need not here mention, would necessitate the stoppage of work on seven wires, and consequently very seriously interfere with the work of this department, and probably delay communications of vastly greater importance than the discussion of details of work or design between the Consulting Architect to Government and his Chief at Ootacamund.

3. After completing the experiments referred to above I shall have much pleasure in communicating the results to you.

No. 47.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd July 1881, No. 1,811 W.

FURTHER report from the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras Division, will be awaited.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras Division.
,, Consulting Architect to Government.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1881) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF
TELEGRAPHS, MADRAS DIVISION,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated July, 22nd.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 22nd July 1881, No. 1,811 W.

JULY.

Nos. 46-47.

Direct Telephone communication between
Ootacamund and Madras.—Further report
awaited from the Superintendent of Tele-
graphs, Madras Division, regarding the
practicability of—

GENERAL OR ESTABLISHMENT.

CONSULTING ARCHITECT'S OFFICE

No.

Chennai, July 26 1881.

FROM

THE CONSULTING ARCHITECT TO GOVERNMENT

TO

THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

SIR,

Enclosures.

I have the honor to draw attention
to the great value of testing the
practicability of direct Telephone
Communication between Ootacamund
and Madras.

2 All that is necessary for the
purpose is to procure a couple
of Gower-Bell Telephones price
£12. Each and connect them to each
end of the Govt. Telegraph wire between
the two places.

3 The wire I imagine is free during
the night and the experiment could be
no doubt be conducted by the Telegraph
Dept. with very little trouble & I may say
no expense.

In taking a personal interest in the
scientific part of the question I would
take it as a favor if the Telegraph

Enclosure
Dated 26th July 1881

Telegraph Dept. permitted me to be present when the experiment was made.

5 I endeavored to show in a Professional Paper in the last Quarterly number, *Practical Prop. Papers on Ind. Eng.* that it was theoretically possible to speak distinctly over a much greater distance than had been supposed: made & I would refer to this paper "On Telephone Apparatus" for further details.

6 I made special inquiries in America & ascertained that a really long length of wire had not been spoken over & merely it appeared to me because no one had taken the trouble to try. With very indifferent apparatus I succeeded in hearing at Bangalore sounds at Bellary in 1879 & the Gower-Bell apparatus is so much superior & fuller toned to anything I then heard that it can hardly fail to be satisfactory & decisive.

8 On very long lines static of the atmosphere occasionally disturbs the sound & this is one reason why telephones have come so slowly into

use. But experiments seem alone required to mitigate this defect.

9 I need not say there is much business of one kind and another which is with difficulty transacted through the ordinary telegraph.

10 It would be an especial advantage to this office to be able to discuss verbally for months of an hour or to the details of a work or design if a telephone were available when the line was clear of messages.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Yours most obedt. Servt.

W. Fraser
Maj R.E.
Off. Cons. Archt. & Genl.

Note. The Tel. Dept. could probably get the Gower-Bell Telephones from the Company at Calcutta.

GENERAL OF ESTABLISHMENT.

From

The Consulting Architect
to Government,

To

The Chief Engineer, P. W. Department.

No.

Dated

Received

No. of ENCLOSURES.

M. Dept
No 255 dated 7th July 1881.

Letter from the Consulting
Architect to Govt of 4 July 1881
inviting attention to the great
value of testing the practicality
of direct telephone communication
between Ootacamund & Madras
suggesting its introduction.

18/11/81

Referred to the Dept of
Telegraphs, Madras Division,
for opinion.

- (1) as to the feasibility of
making the line available
for the proposed experiment, and
- (2) as to whether, as suggested,
the Gower-Bell telephones
can be procured from Calcutta.

(Sd) R. M. Sankey, R. G.

Secretary.

(Sd) R. S.
C. A. W.

To
The Dept of Telegraphs,
Madras Division, with letter in original & duplicate.

No: 1430

P 3

From

The Superintendent of Telegraphs
Madras Division

To

The Secretary
to Government Public Works Dept.
Ootacamund

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your No: 255 of the 7th instant with annexure (herewith returned) regarding the practicability of direct telephone communication between Ootacamund and Madras, and in reply to state that I am about making experiments to test the practical value of the Gower Bell telephone, two of which I have. Before testing them thro such a long length of wire as that between Madras and Ootacamund, it will be as well to first ascertain if they will work satisfactorily through a much shorter length.

To work the telephone between Madras and Ootacamund, should it be practical to do so, of which I am very doubtful for reasons I need not here mention, would necessitate the stoppage of work

on

on linen wires, and consequently very
seriously interfere with the work of this
Department and probably delay
communications of vastly greater
importance than the discussion of details
of work or design between the Consulting
Architect to Government and his Chief
at Dacca and

After completing the experiments
referred to above I shall have much
pleasure in communicating the results
to you.

Madras }
9 July 1881 }

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedt Servant,

J. H. Hindle
Superintendent of Pels.

Madras Division

P. H. C. No 4196

Recd: 21 July '81

M 19/7
O.S. 5/7 - Cir 14/7 Let 19/7

PS

No 1811 W PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 22nd July 1881.

Read the following:—

From
The Hqs. Can. Architect } (No. 10. — of 4th July '81)
Supt. }
" The Supt. of Telegraphs } (" 1430 of 9th July '81)
Madras Division }

Further report
from the Superin-
-tendent of Telegraphs,
Madras Division
will be awaited.

[Signature]

[Signature]

14. 7. 81

Supt. of Tel. Madras S. V.
C. A. to Supt. ✓
R. S. Des. 100
2-8-81

4196

Govt. of 1879 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

By

Dated

For

Recd.

Encl.

6. 22 July 1879. No. 1811 W

No. 46-47

Direct telephone communication
between Colac and
and Madras. Further
report awaited from the Super-
intendent Madras Division
regarding the practicability
of —

26/12
Entd. in Receipt
Regd.