GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

15th March 1878, No. 1,346 W.

Buildings and Roads.

Civil Works.

Read the following papers :—

No. 201. From Captain J. L. L. MORANT, R.E., District Engineer, Nilgiris, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 5th September 1877, No. 357.

With reference to Public Works G.O., No. 496 W, dated 31st July 1877, I have the honor to submit plans and estimates for a new Telegraph Office at Ootacamund. Estimate No. 66 amounts to Rupees 32,900; estimate No. 67 to Rupees 25,200.

2. The present design provides a little more accommodation than that shown in the plan submitted with my letter printed with the above order. The entrance hall containing the general staircase and the covered-way under the room for the Director-General of Telegraphs are the only additional points in the present design.

3. Plan No. 1 shows the position in which it is proposed to place this building, which is the same as that mentioned in paragraph 6 of the Commissioner's letter printed with Public Department G.O., No. 185, dated 19th February 1874, which also approves of the site. The design has been especially drawn up to suit that site, and the covered-way and room above have been purposely placed so as to form an agreeable feature as viewed from the point X, towards which all the roads in that vicinity converge.

4. I first drew up the design with the kitchens and store-rooms placed in a story below the ground (basement floor) as is the custom in England. The fall of the ground behind the building suggested this very convenient arrangement. But I find it raises the cost of the design. I have therefore, to save time, left the design without alteration, but have estimated for the basement story being omitted and the kitchens being built outside of, and detached from, the main building. This reduces the cost by Rs. 7,700. It will not alter the appearance of the design except on the side and rear elevations (east elevation on plan).

5. The design submitted with my letter printed with Public Works G.O., No. 196, dated the 25th January 1876, was estimated to cost Rupees 37,000, exclusive of the recoveries to be made by utilizing the materials of the portion of the existing building which was to be demolished. Out of this sum the Telegraph Office portion would have cost Rupees 23,000. The cost of the design submitted with this letter is Rupees 25,200. The cost of purchasing the site has to be added to this latter sum. This I believe will amount to Rupees 4,000 more.

6. In my humble opinion the best and most economical course to adopt is to carry out the combined design submitted with my letter printed with Public Works G.O., No. 196, dated the 25th January 1876, at a cost of Rupees 32,000. That design met with the approval of the Director-General of Telegraphs and of the Postmaster-General. I do not believe any arrangement will obtain the same accommodation for a smaller sum than Rupees 32,000. The Ootacamund Commissioner's Office and Court-house cost thirteen years ago Rupees 45,000. The Ootacamund Library cost twelve years ago Rupees 35,000. Mr. Oleff's shop, I believe, cost Rupees 25,000.

7. With regard to the delay which has occurred in the submission of this design I beg to explain that in May 1876 when the Government was on the Hills I took all the designs and papers to General Walker, R.E., then Department Public Works Secretary to Government. He went over them with me and directed me to leave them for a few days in his hands. I am not certain, but I believe he then considered the subject with one of the Members of Government. On returning the papers he told me to let the matter lie over for that official year. In the present year I had hoped that the Government would have come to Ootacamund in May, when I had intended laying all the papers before them, so that the best decision under the circumstances could be arrived at. For the last four months my hands have been full of other pressing works, especially in connection with the water-supply of Ootacamund. I beg most sincerely to apologise if this delay has caused the Government any inconvenience.

8. I beg to forward the former plan and estimate for comparison.

No. 201-A. From H. G. TURNER, Esq., C.S., Acting Postmaster-General, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 20th November 1877, No. 8,882—790.

WITH reference to the Proceedings of Government, No. 496 W, dated 31st July 1877, directing the District Engineer, Nilgiris, to submit the revised plan and estimate for the combined Post and Telegraph Offices at Ootacamund, I have the honor to subjoin herewith copy of a communication from the Director-General of the Post Office, No. 4,512, dated 29th September 1877, requesting the submission of a report from me on the subject as regards the alterations and improvements to the Post Office building at that station.

COPY of a communication from the Director-General of the Post Office of India, to the Postmaster-General, Madras, No. 4,512, dated 29th September 1877.

BEGS to draw his attention to his letter No. 670—790, dated the 17th August 1877, and requests the favor of the submission of final report.

SUBJECT.—Regarding the submission of plan and estimate of the Post Office building at Ootacamund.

No. 201-B. Telegram from the Postmaster-General, Rajahmundry, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated 7th February 1878.

THE grant, Ootacamund Post Office, 3,000, probably lapses. Request information whether it can be expended in making flight stone steps from opposite Oleff's shop to Post Office, and whether Engineer can begin work immediately.

No. 201-C. Telegram from the District Engineer, Nilgiris, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated 9th February 1878.

JUST returned from tour. Construction stone steps Post Office not recommended. Would cost much and be out of place. Wooden steps easily made at small cost. Have not the Rupees 3,000 been already transferred by Public Works G.O., No. 695, 4th September last?

No. 201-D. Telegram from the Postmaster-General, Bezwarah, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated 11th February 1878.

WOODEN steps doubtless adequate. Can they be commenced at once?

No. 202. ORDER THEREON, 15th March 1878, No. 1,346 W.

IN the letter from the Government of India, recorded with G.O., No. 196, dated 25th January 1876, objection was taken to the cost of the Post Office portion of the combined building at Ootacamund, and the District Engineer was instructed to estimate

for a new Telegraph Office, and for alterations to the present Post Office, separately; if the existing building could not be advantageously utilised in the combined design.

2. Captain Morant now submits an alternative design for a Telegraph Office only, to be constructed on Mr. Leigh's land below the present Post Office. If the kitchen, &c., be placed in the basement story the estimated cost is Rupees 32,900, and Rupees 25,200 if the out-houses are separated from the main building as shown on the plan.

3. The District Engineer prefers the original design providing for a Post and Telegraph Office combined as the best and most economical; and in this view His Grace the Governor in Council concurs.

4. The proposed design for the Telegraph Office as a separate building is far too expensive and the charge does not include the cost of the land which is private property. If it be ultimately decided to build on a site other than that occupied by the existing Post Office, the Governor in Council would deprecate the purchase of any more land. The ground below the Jail Hill is Government property and should be utilised if necessary.

5. But the matter will be referred for the reconsideration of the Government of India with reference to their letter, No. 9 A. G., dated 8th January 1876.

6. The question of constructing steps up the Post Office Hill should be deferred for the present.

(Here enter No. 1,347 W, dated 15th March 1878.)

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. A. FOORD, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the District Engineer, Nilgiris.
" Postmaster-General.
" Superintendent of Telegraphs, Bangalore Division.

Exd. T. D. Ryan.

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BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of [1878] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
NILGIRIS.
&c., &c., &c.

Dated March 15th.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 15th March 1878, No. 1,346 W.

MARCH.

Nos. 201-202.

Combined Post and Telegraph Office at Ootacamund.—The proposed design for the Telegraph Office as a separate building disapproved, and the original design for a — upheld; but the matter referred for reconsideration of the Government of India. The question of constructing steps up the Post Office Hill to be deferred for the present.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

No. 1,347 W.

No. 203.

FROM

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

To

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

SIR,—In your letter No. 9 A—G, dated 8th January 1876, the Madras Government were requested to consider whether, having in view the sum proposed to be charged to the Postal Department as their share of the cost of a combined Post and Telegraph Office at Ootacamund, it would not be more economical to repair the present Post Office and build a new Telegraph Office.

2. This matter has since been under the consideration of the Madras Government, various obstacles occurring to prevent its final settlement. But from the papers recorded with the Proceedings which accompany this letter the Government of India will see that no saving will accrue from the construction of a separate Telegraph Office. On the contrary the arrangement will be more expensive, and will not, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, be so convenient as the design for combined buildings already approved.

3. Under these circumstances the Governor in Council is of opinion that the proposed enlargement of the existing Post Office so as to afford the requisite accommodation for both the Postal and Telegraph Departments should be sanctioned.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) E. A. FOORD, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
15th March 1878.

Exd. T. D. Ryan.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1878} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Dated March 15th.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 15th March 1878, No. 1,347 W.

MARCH.

No. 203

COMBINED Post and Telegraph Office a Ootacamund, Nilgiri District.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

14th June 1878, No. 2,504 W.

General.
Account

Read the following paper :—

No. 140. From Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. McLEOD-INNES, R.E., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Account—General,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Simla, 20th May 1878, No. 453 A—G.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 1,347 W, dated 15th March 1878, regarding the construction of a combined Post and Telegraph office at Ootacamund.

2. I am to observe that it would appear from the enclosures to your letter that the amount which the combined offices are now estimated to cost is Rupees 32,000, while if the Telegraph office and the Post office are kept separate the requisite additions to the latter will cost Rupees 3,000, while besides Rupees 4,000 for land the estimate for Telegraph office is either Rupees 32,900 or Rupees 25,200 according to the alternative designs submitted. Thus by one arrangement the cost would be Rupees 32,000 and by the other either Rupees 39,900 or Rupees 32,200.

3. With reference to these amounts I am to invite attention to the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Nos. 249-251, dated 10th September 1875, in which it is stated that the approximate cost of the combined offices would be Rupees 20,000 and of a separate Telegraph office Rupees 16,000.

4. The Government of India, I am to say, will be glad to learn under what circumstances the cost of this project has increased so largely.

No. 141. ORDER THEREON, 14th June 1878, No. 2,504 W.

COMMUNICATED to the District Engineer, Nilgiris, who will report briefly the causes which have led to the cost of the combined offices so far exceeding that originally conjectured.

2. Major Morant's letter recorded with G.O., No. 196, of the 25th January 1876, contains, it is observed, the information required by the Government of India as to the difference between the approximate and regular estimates for the separate buildings.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. A. FOORD, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the District Engineer, Nilgiris.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of {1878} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
NILGIRIS.

Dated June 14th

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 14th *June* 1878, *No.* 2,504 W.

JUNE.

Nos. 140-141.

Combined Post and Telegraph Offices, Ootacamund.—Letter of the Government of India anent the —, communicated to the District Engineer, Nilgiris, and calling for a report as to the causes which have led to the cost of the — exceeding that originally conjectured.

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 3 of Public Works Department G.O., No. 1,346 W, dated 15th March 1878. This will cost in all Rupees $31,100 \times 4,100 = 35,200$ 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 2, 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. 1,853, Simla, 14th 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 designed 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,

G.O., No. 2,504, dated 14th June 1878.

the District Engineer, Nilgiri, was, in the marginal Government Proceedings, directed to report briefly on the subject.

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 34,100, the share of the Telegraph Department being fixed by Major Morant at Rupees 20,000.

3. In consideration of the fact that the site 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.)

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

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

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

× After correction in the Chief Engr's Office

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1879} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS

To

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
FOURTH CIRCLE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated July 18th.

Issued

Read *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.

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.

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

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,

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary 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 18th.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 18th *July* 1879, *No.* 1,886 W.

JULY.

No. 103

COMBINED Post and Telegraph Office at Ootacamund.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

11th October 1879, No. 2,574 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read the following paper:—

No. 22. From Captain G. F. L. MARSHALL, R.E., Officiating Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Civil Works—Buildings,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Simla, 17th September 1879, No. 342 B.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1.886 W., dated 18th July 1879, forwarding plans and estimates, the latter amounting to Rupees 34,100, for building a new combined Post and Telegraph Office at Ootacamund.

2. In communicating the sanction of the Government of India to the estimates, I am to state that the amount should be debited as follows:—

	Rs.
To the Telegraph Department	21,100
„ Postal Department	13,000
	34,100

and to request that the necessary provision may be made under their respective heads in the Budget for 1880-81.

3. The Government of Madras is of course responsible for the details of the design, but it has been noticed in this office that the abutments of 3½ feet to the arch under the partition walls on the story over the Post Office and Signal Rooms are rather deficient, while the Postmaster's quarter seem confined and ill-ventilated.

4. With reference to paragraph 3 of your letter under reply, I am to observe that the Government which provides a building for the joint use of two departments is not bound to make terms as to what is to be done in the event of its being found that there is not room for both.

5. The sanction accorded in paragraph 2 has been registered as No. 13 B of 1879-80, and the plans and estimates received with your letter under reply are returned.

No. 23. ORDER THEREON, 11th October 1879, No. 2,574 W.

COMMUNICATED to the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Circle, whose attention will be drawn to the remarks contained in paragraph 3 of the letter from the Government of India.

2. The work has been included in the statement of demands for 1880-81 submitted to the Government of India.

3. The sanction accorded by the Government of India has been registered as Imperial No. 23 B of 1879-80.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Circle.
„ Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
„ Directors-General, Post Offices and Telegraphs.
„ Postmaster-General.
„ Financial Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

No. 128.

Read—the following paper :—

No. 150.

Report to accompany the Revised Estimate for the combined Post and Telegraph Office at Ootacamund.

The revised estimate, with comparative statement for the combined Post and Telegraph Office, is herewith forwarded.

2 Detailed Estimates.
2 Abstract Estimates.
1 General Abstract.
1 Comparative Statement.
1 Report.
1 Tracing Plan.

In G.O., No. 2574 W., of 11th October 1879, this estimate was sanctioned for Rs. 34,100, debited as follows :—

	Rs.
To the Telegraph Department	21,100
To the Postal Department	13,000
Total ...	34,100

The amount of this sanction was not correct, as the estimate amounted to Rs. 40,040, and a sum of Rs. 5,950 was deducted, being the estimated value of the material of the old Post Office ; this, however, sold for only Rs. 2,474-8-0. Under the present system of accounts the total sanction ought to have been for Rs. 40,040.

2. The revised estimate now forwarded amounts to Rs. 46,760, or Rs. 6,720 in excess of the original estimate, and the reason of this is many omissions in the original estimate and insufficient rates for other items.

The chief excess is the high cost of the shingles ; these were procured from Burmah, and the cost was far in excess of that anticipated ; the excess on this amounts to Rs. 2,206.

Another item of excess is in the floorings, the rates allowed for which, including girders, joists, &c., was insufficient ; these items have been, as the statement shows, separately estimated for ; the excess on these items amounts to about Rs. 2,200.

The other differences are small ; details of them will be found in the comparative statement.

The total estimate Rs. 46,760 should be debited as follows :—

	Rs.
Telegraph Department	28,880
Postal Department	17,880

The estimate now forwarded has been carefully examined and checked, and is believed to be correct ; it is much to be regretted that it was not forwarded before, but the state of, and changes in, the West Coast Division is the cause of the delay.

Ootacamund,
21st April 1882.

(Signed) H. R. MEAD, Major, R.E.,
Superintending Engineer, Fourth Circle.

No. 129.

ORDER—dated 19th June 1882, No. 1533 W., Public Works.

The revised estimate, amounting to Rs. 46,760, for constructing a combined Post and Telegraph Office at Ootacamund is sanctioned as follows:—

	Rs.
Telegraph Department	28,880
Postal Department	17,880
Total ...	46,760

2. The causes of the excess of Rs. 6,720 over the original estimate for Rs. 34,100, sanctioned in G.O., No. 2574 W., dated 11th October 1879, are explained by the Superintending Engineer in his letter above recorded.

3. The expenditure on the work to the end of 1881-82 amounted to Rs. 18,235, and was debited entirely to Telegraph, and in the current year's Imperial Other Services Budget a sum of Rs. 13,527 is provided also under Telegraph. There is therefore an excess provision under that head of Rs. 2,882, which is now surrendered to the Government of India, who will be requested to sanction a grant of Rs. 17,880 under Postal for the completion of the work.

4. This sanction has been registered as Imperial No. 8 of 1882-83 and classified as Civil Buildings, Original Works.

(Here enter No. 1534 W., dated 19th June 1882.)

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Circle, with six Enclosures.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts, with two Abstract Estimates.
" Postmaster-General.
" Superintendent of Telegraphs, West Coast Division.
" Financial Department.

No. 130.

ENDORSEMENT—dated 19th June 1882, No. 1534 W., Public Works.

Copy of the above forwarded to the Government of India with a view to the required allotment under Postal being made.

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

Exd. A. F. Goodall.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1882} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated June, 19th.

Read. *Encl.*

G.O., 19th June 1882, No. 1534 W.

JUNE.

Nos. 128—130.

Combined Post and Telegraph Office at Ootacamund.

CONSTRUCTING —. The revised estimate for — , sanctioned, and the Government of India requested to allot the necessary funds.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ—the following paper :—

From C. F. MACCARTIE, Esq., Officiating Postmaster-General, to the Deputy Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 12th June 1883, No. 2998/235.

With reference to your letter, No. 886 C., dated 4th May 1883, I have the honor to forward, herewith, copy of a letter, No. 2613, dated 31st May 1883, from the Director-General of the Post Office, approving of my suggestions for the additions therein referred to to the Ootacamund Post Office building, and request that you will be so good as to cause the preparation and transmission to this office of the necessary plans and estimates for the same at an early date, so that the requisite amount may be included in the schedule of Public Works of this Department for 1884-85 now under preparation in this office.

ENCLOSURE.

Copy of a communication from the Assistant Director-General of the Post Office of India, to the Postmaster-General, Madras, dated Simla, the 31st May 1883, No. 2613.

In reply to your No. 190/235 of 14th May 1883, I have the honor to inform you that the Director-General approves of your suggestion to apply for the additions noted below to the new combined Post and Telegraph Office now being erected at Ootacamund :—

(*a.*) A cook-room and servants' quarters in rear of the present building.
(*b.*) The addition of a room, 12′ × 12′, to be used as a dining-room by the Postmaster, and to be constructed on the site marked X in the plan.
(*c.*) The conversion of the store-room, 8′ × 6′, into a second bath-room.

2. The necessary plans and estimates may be called for, and the requisite amount required for the work should be included in your schedule of Public Works for 1884-85.

From C. F. MACCARTIE, Esq., Officiating Postmaster-General, to the Deputy Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 18th June 1883, No. 3255/235.

In continuation of my letter, No. 2998/235, dated 12th June 1883, I have the honor to forward, herewith, the ground plan of the combined Post and Telegraph Office at Ootacamund, forwarded with your letter, No. 886 C., dated 4th May 1883, and request that you will be so good as to return it to this office when no longer required.

Order—dated 18th June 1883, No. 1717 W., Public Works.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Circle, for submission of the requisite plans and estimates.

2. The ground plan should be returned to the Postmaster-General by the Superintending Engineer when no longer required.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Circle, with one Enclosure.
" Postmaster-General.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1883} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated June, 18*th*.

Read. *Encl.*

G.O., 18th June 1883, No. 1717 W.

JUNE.

Combined Post and Telegraph Office, Ootacamund

The Superintending Engineer, Fourth Circle, to submit the requisite plans and estimates for certain additions to the Post Office portion of the new —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ—the following letter from Colonel J. BEATTY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Coimbatore, 5th January 1884, No. 5 W.:—

With reference to G.O., No. 1717 W., of 18th June 1883, and in continuation of my letter, No. 563, of 13th ultimo, I have the honor to submit, for sanction, the revised plans and estimates, amounting to Rs. 56,960, for constructing the combined Post and Telegraph office at Ootacamund.

3 Plans.
2 Detailed estimates with abstract.
2 Abstract do. in duplicate.
1 Comparative statement.
1 Report.

2. The original estimate amounted to Rs. 46,760, and was sanctioned in G.O., No. 1533 W., of 19th June 1882. The expenditure up to date has been Rs. 46,424; and the comparative statement herewith sent shows that the works originally sanctioned, with certain alterations and additions considered *by this department to be necessary* to make them complete, will cost Rs. 49,420.

3. The principal items of excess requiring notice are—

	Rs.
(1.) Carson's paint for the outer walls	457

This painting has not been done. It is intended to give the surface a more uniform tint, and to preserve the brick-work from decay by exposure.

	Rs.
(2.) Gravelling round the buildings	1,000
(3.) Improving and planting the hill, forming approaches, &c. ...	2,500

These two items are in hand; gravelling of the value of Rs. 225 has been done; and Rs. 1,338 have been spent on improving and planting, &c.

4. The following extra works are included in the estimate by request of the Postal and Telegraph departments:—

	Rs.
(1.) Extra rooms for the Postmaster	2,180
(2.) Porch	1,830

For these two items separate estimates are furnished.

(3.) Cook and servant's rooms for both departments	2,800
(4.) Latrine for both departments	730

For each of these items, two estimates are sent; one showing the share of the Postal Department, the other that of the Telegraph Department.

5. The total estimated cost of these extra works is Rs. 7,540, which, added to the revised estimate of the original works, makes up the grand total of Rs. 56,960.

6. The proportionate shares of this chargeable to each department are—

	Rs.
To the Postal Department	24,965
„ Telegraph „	31,995

P.S.—It has been already reported that an additional allotment of Rs. 5,000 is required in this official year if all the proposed works are to go on without delay.

Order—dated 21st January 1884, No. 183 W., Public Works.

The second revised estimate, amounting to Rs. 56,960, for constructing a combined Post and Telegraph office at Ootacamund, is sanctioned as follows :—

	Rs.
Telegraph Department	31,995
Postal Department	24,965
Total ...	56,960

2. The excess of Rs. 10,200, over the first revised estimate of Rs. 46,760, sanctioned in G.O., No. 1533 W., dated 19th June 1882, is explained in the Superintending Engineer's letter above recorded.

3. The expenditure on the work to the end of 1882-83 amounted to Rs. 32,745, of which, Rs. 28,880 were debited to Telegraph and Rs. 3,865 to Postal. The allotment for the current year, including the sum of Rs. 7,910 referred to in Proceedings of Government, No. 104 W., dated 14th January 1883, stands at Rs. 15,790, the whole of which is debitable to Postal. The Government of India will now be requested to provide a sum of Rs. 10,489 as shown below, for the completion of the work in 1884-85—

	Rs.
Telegraph Department	3,115
Postal Department	5,310
For Works	8,425
„ Establishment	1,938
„ Tools and plant	126
Total ...	10,489

4. This sanction has been registered as Imperial Other Services No. 62 W. of 1883-84, and classified as Civil Buildings, Original Works. Imperial No. 8 of 1882-83 is cancelled.

(Here enter No. 184 W., dated 21st January 1884.)

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, with twenty enclosures.
„ Examiner, Public Works Accounts, with two abstract estimates.
„ Postmaster-General
„ Chief Superintendent of Telegraphs, Malabar Division.
„ „ „ Madras Division.
„ Financial Department.

Endorsement—dated 21st January 1884, No. 184 W., Public Works.

Copy of the above forwarded to the Government of India, with reference to the concluding portion of paragraph 3 of the foregoing Proceedings, No. 183 W., dated 21st January 1884.

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

Exd. E. Fernandez.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1884} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated January, 21*st.*

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 21st Jan. 1884, No. 184 W.

JANUARY.

Post and Telegraph Office at Ootacamund

Forwarding copy of Proceedings sanctioning the second revised estimate, amounting to Rs. 56,960, for constructing a combined —

Supd. Engineer's Office 4th Circle,
Pookole 22d Jany 1884

No. 26
Ell.

From,

The Superintending Engineer,
Fourth Circle.

To,

The Chief Engineer
P.W. Department

Sir,

With reference to your Cir. 104 W of 14th instant I have the honor to request early sanction to the revised estimate of the Post and Telegraph Office Ootacamund to enable the Executive Engineer to spend the additional grant.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obt Servt
L. Beatty Lt Col R.E.
Supg Engr 4th Circle

10745 14-1-84
1844-21-1-84.

No. 261 W dated 30th January/84
B

Recorded with
reference to Govt. Ltr
184 W of 21 January 1884

Cn
Ch.
30/1/84

From

The Supg. Engineer,
Fourth Circle.

Dated 22nd
Recd: 25th } January 1884.

No. 26
EW

No. 261 W dated 30th January/84

Post and Telegraph Office,
Ootacamund:—

Requesting early
sanction to the revised
estimate of the —.

SDC 30/1

Ch 1/2

Submitted for the orders of
Sanctioned