

Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 154745

DATED 25 June 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

Kudairkaval Observatory: From Public
Deptt requesting that the Govt of India
may be furnished with a detailed
report on the present state of progress
of the ———, Communicated to the
Consulting Architect for submission
of the report called for.

2/6

Note for the Madras office The file
to be returned to Aotaramund after
issue of the order.

 $\frac{2}{5}$

FURTHER PAPERS.



Read the following paper:—



PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT

Read the following paper:-

From the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. 1430-9-10, dated 1st June 1898:-

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 637, dated the 14th May 1898, with which you forward a copy of a letter from the Government Astronomer protesting against the stoppage of work upon the observatory buildings at Kodakanal, and convey the strong opinion of the Governor in Council that the existing arrangements for the completion of these buildings should not be disturbed, as the Secretary of State's advice would seem to have been given under a misapprehension.

I am to explain that the Secretary of State has apparently not been acting under any misapprehension in the matter. It is true that the Government Astronomer consulted the Old Observatory Committee about the buildings and instruments, which it was proposed to construct and purchase, but that Committee has since been superseded (at the suggestion of the Government of India) by a larger and more representative Committee of the Royal Society to which the whole scheme of future operations at Indian Observatories, and not merely the question of immediate operations at Kodakanal, has been referred for opinion and advice. The Secretary of State apparently considers it to be only right and proper that the new Committee should be given an opportunity of considering the plans and proposed equipment of

the observatory before the buildings have advanced so far as to render any advice or suggestions on their part nugatory. Such a course seems well calculated to secure from the first the sympathy and full co-operation of those whose advice and assistance will be of the greatest value in the future. And its adoption in no way casts any reflection whatever upon the competence of Mr. Michie-Smith, or upon the judicious nature of his proposals.

3. Thus, in the absence of any information as to the progress and present state of the buildings and of any professional engineering opinion regarding the objections to a suspension of work upon them, the Government of India, while fully sharing with the Government of Madras and with Mr. Michie-Smith the regret with which they contemplate the further delay which now appears to be unavoidable, are not prepared to issue any instructions at variance with those which have been received from the Secretary of State. They think, however, that there will be no objection to the Director's house and the quarters for observers being proceeded with rapidly and the two deemed completed; and I have already been directed to telegraph to you to this effect.

4. I am at the same time to request that the Government of India may be furnished with a detailed report on the present state of progress of the buildings at Kodakanal, the construction of which has now been in hand for some considerable time.

O. B. D. H. I.:- No. 769, dated 16th June 1898.

Communicated to the Government Astronomer in continuation of G.O. No. 735, Public, dated 3rd June 1898.

2. The Public Works Department will be requested to submit to the Government of India the report called for in paragraph 4 of the letter.

(True Extract)

[Signature]

To the Government Astronomer.
,, Public Works Department.

for Chief Secretary.

INDIAN TELEGRAPH.					Monthly Local No.
Class.	From Station				Official Instructions.
Station	Words.	Day.	Hour.	Minute.	From (Person)
25	10	17	27		Chief Assistant
To (Person)	Second Assistant P. W. D.				
<p>Please send draft of recent letter to India regarding Kodai Kanab observatory urgent</p> <p>7/10/98</p> <p>REPLICATED 10 JU 98</p>					
RECD. FROM	L. N.		SENT TO		
At	Hrs.	Mts. By	At	Hrs.	Mts. By
Date			Postmaster.		