

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	794	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	6-7-	1967.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers:—

No. 71. From B. C. BAILEY, Esq., Superintendent, Government Telegraphs, Madras Division, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 13th March 1867, No. 2120.

I have the honor to request the favor of your informing me whether Government would have any objection to the dismantling of the telegraph line running between the Observatory and the Custom House, in Madras.

2. The line was put up in 1858 for the purpose of dropping a Time Ball, but it has been out of use for about two years, and is now in an unsafe state.

3. I am not quite sure whether the Observatory or this Department is responsible for the conservancy of the line in question, but as this Department constructed it I presume we should take it down if it is no longer required, and dispose of the material.

Referred to the Government Astronomer.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
19th March 1867.

(Signed) F. BRANDT,
Acting Under Secretary to Govt.

No. 72. From B. C. BAILEY, Esq., Superintendent, Government Telegraphs, Madras Division, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 25th April 1867, No. 145.

I have the honor to solicit the favor of an early reply to my letter, No. 2120, dated 13th March last, regarding the telegraph line running between the Observatory and the Custom House.

2. The line is in a very unsafe state, and if it is not to be dismantled should be repaired as soon as possible.

Forwarded to the Government Astronomer for early report, with reference to the docket of the 19th March last on Mr. Bailey's letter of the 13th idem.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
30th April 1867.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 73. From N. R. POGSON, Esq., Government Astronomer, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras Observatory, 24th June 1867.

In reference to the letter of the Superintendent of Government Telegraphs, Madras, No. 2120, dated 13th March, and the subject of Time Signals in general, I have the honor to express my regret that heavy pressure of more ordinary official duties, in the discharge of which no one knows better than yourself how inadequately I am assisted, has prevented me from giving an early reply thereto. I now propose to submit for your consideration all necessary suggestions for the accomplishment of the scheme of improved Time Signals, which Government authorized me to carry out, so long since as in the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department, 20th April 1864, and the Order thereon, No. 481. At the date of that order I was in reasonable expectation of prompt European aid, and had such been conceded, the improved signals would have been long since in regular working order;

but the unlooked for refusal of the assistant sanctioned by the Government of India deterred me from attempting more than the already too extensive routine of work I had commenced in anticipation of the much needed promised aid. I trust that this explanation will be kindly accepted ; and I may also remark, that it is equally applicable to other matters too long in hand, especially to the supply of new rain gauges, and the reorganization of the Revenue Board Rain Returns ; the construction of a Rain Map for the Madras Presidency ; and the determination of the relative Longitudes of the Presidency towns of India.

1. In immediate reply to Mr. Bailey's letter above referred to. The line of telegraph running from the Observatory to the Custom House has been out of use since 24th March 1864 ; but, in the event of my present proposals being approved and adopted, will require prompt and thorough repair for daily use between the Observatory and the Fort Saint George Time Gun, for the purpose of firing the gun by means of electrical currents at noon and 8 P. M. Presuming upon the speedy realization of the proposed improvements, I therefore request that the line may be at once restored between the Observatory and the Fort ; and that in doing so, the utmost regard may be paid to its insulation, so as to reduce the number of failures from such cause, on rainy days, to a minimum.

I beg leave further to suggest the desirability of carrying, on the same posts, a separate wire direct to the Telegraph Office ; an alarm bell being kept in readiness to call attention in case of immediate communication being desirable. It is true that its use would be of very rare occurrence ; but the Longitude determinations, whenever effected, will require such a wire ; and for giving timely warning of approaching bad weather its services might prove of great value to the shipping community. The weather reports for Calcutta, now written and sent by a Peon, might be signalled daily at noon ; for though reading a message is more than I or my assistants could manage without more frequent practice, sending one is so easy that we should not have the slightest difficulty in making ourselves understood by any signaller at the opposite extremity of the line.

2. Since the discontinuance of the Time Ball in March 1864, the official Time Signal has been the flash of the evening gun, the precise Madras Mean Time of which has been carefully noted at the Observatory and reported to the Master Attendant on the following morning (Sundays excepted), besides being published in the *Fort Saint George Gazette*, and the local newspapers. As both the flash and the report are observed, the correctness of the time given is as nearly perfect as could be desired ; but of course no use can be made of the gun-flash for ascertaining the errors and rates of Chronometers in the Roads, until the Observatory notice has been consulted on the following day at the Master Attendant's Office, or after a still further delay, through the above-named channels of publication. In the case of a Steamer, the effect of such delay is usually to deprive the Captain of the means of verifying his Chronometers at all ; the Observatory notice being rarely to hand until some hours after his departure from Madras ! This would be obviated and the signal rendered immediately available, if the guns could be invariably fired at noon and 8 P. M. precisely ; and it is to enable me to effect this very desirable improvement that I have now the honor to address you.

3. As I am at length prepared to carry out the scheme sanctioned by Government in 1864, in the order before named, I herewith submit an Indent upon the Home Government for the necessary appliances, consisting of an Electrical Motor Clock, and three sympathetic clocks, as specified therein. I have suggested Mr. Charles Frodsham, of 84 Strand, London, solely from my belief that he is the most scrupulous, skilful and scientific Clock and Chronometer Maker in London ; and as he has had long connection with the Admiralty and other Departments of the Home Government, I think it probable that he will be considered a proper person to execute such an order for the Madras Government. But whoever the maker employed may be, he should receive his instructions from the Astronomer Royal, whose great experience in such matters would ensure the perfect applicability of the apparatus, and who would, I am sure, most willingly superintend its construction if requested to do so.

4. As however a long period, probably above a year, must elapse before the Normal or Motor Clock can be manufactured, despatched, and set up at Madras, and the proposed improvement in the Time Signals is a pressing and important want, one which ought to have been supplied long since, I shall be happy forthwith to undertake the correct discharge of the Fort gun, by means of hand telegraphic currents, as the Time Ball was formerly dropped ; and if, as there is every reason to hope will be the case, the attempt proves successful, the gun at Saint Thomas' Mount may just as well be fixed in the same manner. I shall, however, require the aid and advice of some Engineer or Artillery Officer, in reference to the arrangements for firing the gun, and I therefore beg leave to suggest that Colonel C. H. Hutchinson, Acting Superintendent of the Gun Carriage Manufactory, be requested to give me the benefit of his experience and well known mechanical skill in the matter.

As the Acting Brigade Major, the Superintendent of Marine, the Master Attendant, and the Superintendent of Telegraphs, will all be concerned in the requisite changes, it appears to me desirable that we should constitute a Committee upon the subject ; and with such co-operation I have every reason to feel assured that the scheme would be certain of accomplishment, and of great practical utility ; and further, that correct time might also be easily distributed all over the Presidency, wherever a telegraph station exists.

No. 74. ORDER THEREON 6th July 1867, No. 794.

The Governor in Council approves of the suggestions made by the Government Astronomer in his letter of the 24th ultimo, for the adoption of improved Time Signals.

2. The Indent referred to in paragraph 3 of the letter will be submitted to the Secretary of State for India.

3. Colonel Hutchinson, the Acting Superintendent of the Gun Carriage Manufactory, will be requested to afford Mr. Pogson the aid and advice which he requires in respect of the arrangements for firing the Fort gun in accordance with the correct time.

4. The Brigade Major, the Superintendent of Marine, the Master Attendant, the Superintendent of Telegraphs, and the Government Astronomer will, as suggest-

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
8th July 1867.*

ed in the concluding clause of Mr. Pogson's letter, be requested to form a Committee on the subject of the changes necessary for giving effect to the introduction of the improved Time Signals.

(True Extract).

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Government Astronomer.
„ Superintendent Gun Carriage Manufactory
„ Brigade Major.
„ Superintendent of Marine.
„ Master Attendant, Madras.
„ Superintendent of Telegraphs.
„ Military Department.

25
No 145
From The Superintendent Gortelgh Madras Division
To The Chief Secretary to Government Fort St. George.
Dated Madras 25th April 1867

I have the honor to solicit the favor of an early reply to my letter no 2120 dated 13th March last regarding the Telegraph line running between the Observatory and the Customs house.

The line is in a very unsafe state and if it is not when dismantled should be repaired as soon as possible.

I have the honor to be

Yours most Obedt Servt.

J. W. Mailey

Superintendent Fort
Teleph Ind

The Hon. A. J. Arbuthnot
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St George.

Dec - 25

In reference to a letter from the
Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras, referred
to the Government Astronomer for his remarks
thereupon; and to the firing of the Fort and
Mount Gauss by telegraphic currents from the
Observatory.

Indent upon the Home Government for the requisite apparatus described in detail; and proposed temporary arrangements for carrying out the improvement suggested pending the supply of the said Indent.

Enclosures

- 1 Incident upon the Home Government of India.
2 Letters (nos 355 & 566) from the Capt. of
Gov. Telegraphs: — returned —

Onk. L. to Engd 16th July
No. 13 of 1867

c. 28th June
R. 1st July. 71.

Pro. S. L. S.
Wm. S. L. S.

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PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the
Government Astronomer.

Here enter 26 June 1867

From the Supt. Govt. Telegraphs Madras. (Here enter 13 March & 25 April 1867)

Order thereon. 6 July 1867 N^o 794.

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2. The indent referred to in paragraph 3 of the letter will be submitted to the Secretary of State for India.

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W.D.

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necessary for giving effect to the in-
troduction of the improved Time
Signals.

W. H. L.

To the Govt. Astronomer

- Supt. Gun Carriage Manufactory
- " Brigade Major "
- " Supt. of Marine "
- " Master Attendant, Marine "
- " Supt. of Telegraphs "
- " Major, Dep't. "

done

