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MR. O. 1-83,000-18-10-25

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public **DEPARTMENT**

G.O. No. <i>1765</i>	Press Mis.
Dated <i>30-12-19</i> <i>1869</i>	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 138-A. Read the following translation of a letter from His Excellency the Governor of the French Establishments in India, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor of Madras, dated Pondicherry, 24th December 1869.

M. Fleuriais, Lieutenant of the Imperial Navy, has been commissioned by our Government to verify the position of the meridians of several points in different parts of the world regarding which some doubt appears to exist. For this purpose, M. Fleuriais has visited America and Saigon, and he is at present occupied with the meridian of Pondicherry, in regard to which there appears to him to be an error of from two to three miles.

2. To correct his own astronomical observations he wishes to obtain those of the Madras Observatory on the meridian of this town. An agreement between the number obtained separately at Madras on the one hand, and at Pondicherry on the other, will, in his opinion, amount to a mathematical guarantee of correctness. The only means of ascertaining this agreement is to determine the difference of time between these two points by telegraph.

3. I have, therefore, to request that your Excellency will be so good as to direct the Government Astronomer at Madras to communicate with M. Fleuriais, and to allow the free use of the telegraph for one hour of a day to be named hereafter for the exchange of communications. M. Fleuriais' wishes on the subject are—

“ The free use of the line of telegraph from Madras to Pondicherry for any one day in January from 8½ to 9½ P. M.

“ The day to be fixed either by Mr. Pogson or myself. Either the one or the other ought to take upon himself the management of the line during the course of the day fixed.

“ As regards the day, it will probably be one of those of the first fortnight of January (Saturday and Sunday excepted).

“ In each of the offices there should be an Officer of the Telegraph Department in attendance to assist in the transmission of any questions or answers.

“ If there are any intermediate Telegraph stations, they should be warned so as not to interfere with direct communication. (This occurred in a similar operation between Valparaiso and Santiago).”

4. If there are any charges for the use of the telegraph, I beg you will be pleased to inform me, so that they may be provided for.

No. 138-B. ORDER THEREON, 30th December 1869, No. 1765.

Ordered that a translation of the foregoing letter be furnished to the Government Astronomer and to the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras Division, with the request that they will place themselves at once in communication with M. Fleuriais, and render that Officer every assistance in determining the meridian of Pondicherry.

(True Extract.)

J. I. MINCHIN,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Government Astronomer.

„ Superintendent of Government Telegraphs, Madras Division.

Exd. J. Wright.

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

M. Fleuriat, Lieutenant de vaisseau de la marine Impériale a reçu mission de notre gouvernement de vérifier la position des méridiens de plusieurs points du Monde, sur lesquels des erreurs sont pressenties. Il s'est ainsi rendu en Amérique, puis à Saïgon, et il s'occupe en ce moment du méridien de Pondichéry dont la détermination actuelle lui paraît entachée d'une erreur de 2 à 3 milles.

Les garanties manquant en matière d'observations astronomiques, M. Fleuriat désire obtenir pour les siennes le moyen de contrôle très efficace que peuvent lui offrir les observations de l'observatoire de Madras sur le méridien de cette ville. L'accord des nombres obtenus séparément à Madras d'une part et à Pondichéry de l'autre, lui semble devoir équivaloir à une garantie presque mathématique. Le seul moyen de faire ressortir

A Son Excellence le très-honorable Gouverneur de la Présidence
du Fort St. George, Madras

Print. de 1860

PUBLIC.

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THE GOVERNMENT ASTRONOMER.

Ac. Ec. Ec.

Dated December, 30th.

Recd.

Recd.

G. O., 30th December 1860, No. 1765.

RECEIVED

NOV. 1860-1861

Respecting the Government Astronomer and the Superintendent of the Observatory, Madras Division, to place the observatory in communication with the Astronomer, and render the observatory every assistance in determining the meridian of Pondichéry.

ressortir cet accord est de déterminer par le télégraphe la différence des heures des deux points.

En conséquence je viens prier Votre Excellence de vouloir bien autoriser M. le Directeur de l'observatoire de Madras à entrer en relations avec M. Fleuriat. Je sollicite également pour l'échange de leurs communications le libre usage du télégraphe entre les deux villes, pendant une heure d'un jour à déterminer. Voici quels sont les desirs de M. Fleuriat à ce sujet :

"Libre usage de la ligne télégraphique de Pondichéry à Madras, pour un jour quelconque de janvier, de 8^h $\frac{1}{2}$ à 9^h $\frac{1}{2}$ du soir environ.

"Le choix du jour devrait rester à la décision de M. Pogson ou de moi. L'un ou l'autre se chargerait de prévenir l'administration de la ligne, dans le courant du jour choisi.

"quant au jour, ce serait probablement un de ceux de la 1^{re} quinzaine de janvier (Jeudi et Dimanche exceptés.)

"Dans chacun des bureaux, un employé devrait rester pour, au besoin, servir à la transmission de quelques demandes ou réponses.

"Enfin, si, ce qui est peu probable, il existait des stations intermédiaires, ces dernières devraient être prévenues, pour qu'au moment voulu, elles ne viennent pas involontairement arrêter la communication directe (Ce fait s'est présenté dans une opération

opération analogue entre Valparaiso et Santiago. J'a fallu perdre 1 heure en explications que les bureaux non prévenus, ne comprenaient pas.).

S'il y avait quelques frais à supporter pour l'usage du télégraphe, je vous prierais d'avoir l'obligeance de me les faire connaître afin qu'il y soit pourvu.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Gouverneur, l'assurance de la haute considération avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être

De Votre Excellence

Le très obéissant serviteur,

Le Commissaire Général de la Marine
Gouverneur des Etablissements français de l'Inde,

Forwarded upon a translation of this letter to the Genl. Astronomer, and to the Super. Telegraph Dept with the intimation that the Govt with every assistance offered to M. Fleuriat, with whom these officers should communicate at once. The question of payment for the use of the telegraph wire I cannot I fancy be decided without reference to Govt of India. But this can be settled later. N.E.

In order

Public Department.

91

Letter from French
Govt regarding assistance
of port Astronomers &
Telegraph Dept in deter-
mining the meridian
of Pondicherry

MS

I repeat order and
translation and send
up to my chamber at
12 tomorrow for Mr. Minchin
signature

MS

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter translation of

a letter from His Excellency the Governor
of the French Establishments in India
dated Pondicherry 24th December 1869.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable
the Governor of Madras.

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

Mr. Fleuriat, Lieutenant
of the Imperial Navy, has been Commis-
sioned by our Government ^{to verify} ~~to examine~~
the position of Meridians of several ^{points} ~~parts~~
of the world regarding which ~~there appears~~
~~to be some errors~~. They have been so far car-
~~ried~~ ~~from America to Saigon~~, and he
is at present occupied with the Meridian
of Pondicherry, ^{in regard to which} ~~regarding the actual de-~~
~~terminations~~ of which there appears to him
to be an error of 2 to 3 miles.

On point of Astronomical
observations

In different parts
of the world

Some doubt
appears to
exist

In this purpose
Mr. Fleuriat has
visited America
& Saigon

To enable him to determine the position of the meridian of the Madras Observatory on the meridian of the Pondicherry Observatory. Mr. Fleuriac wishes to obtain the observations of the Madras Observatory on the meridian of this Town. If the numbers obtained at Madras on one hand, and at Pondicherry on the other, agree, he thinks ought to be equal to a guarantee nearly mathematical. The only means of ascertaining this agreement, is to determine the difference of time between these two points by Telegraph. -

Therefore I have to request that your Excellency will be so good as to direct the Government Astronomer at Madras to communicate with Mr. Fleuriac, and also for the use of the Telegraph for one hour of a day to be reserved, for the exchange of communications between these two points. Mr. Fleuriac's wishes on the subject are.

"The free use of the line of Telegraph from Madras to Pondicherry for any one day in January from 8 1/2 to 9 1/2 P.M. -

"The day ought to be fixed either by Mr. Pargson or myself - either the one or the other ought to take upon himself the management of the line during the course of the day fixed.

"As regards the day, it will probably be one of those of the 1st fortnight of January

January (Saturday & Sunday excepted).

"In each of the offices there should be an officer in attendance to assist in the transmission of any questions or answers.

"In fine. If there are any intermediate stations, these should be ~~disconnected~~ so they are likely to interfere with the direct communication and to prevent the loss of time. (This occurred in a similar operation between Valparaiso and Santiago)"

If there are any charges for the use of the Telegraph, I beg you will be pleased to inform me so that it might be provided for.

I have &c

Order thereon 30th December 1869 H.

Ordered that a translation of the foregoing letter be furnished to the Government Astronomer and to the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras Division, with the request that they will place themselves at once in communication with Mr. Fleuriac and render that officer every assistance in determining the meridian of Pondicherry.

(True Extract)

Chief Secretary.

To. The Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras Division.

Adm

Recd 18 Dec 170

Govt. of IS JOURNAL.

Public

To
The Govt. Stationer

per.

4 Dec 45 of 1870

Dated 30 Dec^r }
Recd. 1869, No. 1765.

Nos. 1384-1388.

*Requesting the Govt. Stationer
and the Dept. of Telegraphs,
Chadras Division, to place
themself at once in com-
munication with Mr. Thakur,
and thereby that officer every
assistance in determining
the position of the station.*