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Public DEPARTMENT.
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5/11
July 740-1*

First copy sent to Press.

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Despatched in print. *18/11*

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Maidas Observatory
Recording the Adminis-
tration report on the
for 1889.

RECAPITULATED ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
18/11/90, No.

BACK-PAPER, No.

OF 18

FURTHER PAPER, No.

OF 18

ENCLOSURES. *one - a*

CURRENT No. *2990 - a*

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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- B = Not to be printed.
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32-

Govt. of {1890} Madras.
PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., &c., 4th November 1890,
Nos. 740, 741.

NOVEMBER.

Madras Observatory.

Recording the Administration Report on the —
for 1889.

Despatcher
Give me a
cops for C.A. Rur
Show proof
Rur
17/11

semaphore, for which nobody is immediately responsible, seems to find more favor with the shipping. Electrical currents leave the Observatory hourly without fail, and those at 8 A.M. and 2 P.M. should drop the semaphore, but its failures are too frequent, and, under existing circumstances, its performance cannot be checked from the Observatory. Two sympathetic clocks—one over the Custom House and another inside the hall of the General Post Office—are under electrical control from the Observatory and work satisfactorily; though the former, owing to its inevitable exposure to sunshine and sea-air, requires far more frequent oiling and cleaning than the other, which is well sheltered and therefore less liable to stoppages; a third similar clock, placed on the north side of the Public Works Office at Chépák, was going throughout the year, but not under electrical control, being simply wound and adjusted weekly and hence holding no claim as a public time regulator. An excellent clock over Messrs. P. Orr and Sons' establishment in the Mount Road was also regulated by means of hourly signals from the Madras Observatory.

4. *Meteorology*.—The Madras Meteorological register was continued in the form adopted since the year 1861, and the results were communicated to the Meteorological Reporter, Madras, besides being published in a Supplement of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, and in the two leading local newspapers. Weather telegrams were despatched to Simla about 8½ A.M. daily throughout the year.

The meteorological records during 1889 showed a great deficiency of healthy wind and rainfall. The former only averaged 148 miles per day instead of 172 miles, while the rain was 6 inches below the 75 year mean of 49.5 inches, and would have been much less but for an unexpected downpour of 12 inches towards the end of December. No cyclone visited Madras, though three distant ones had a marked effect upon the weather in November and December.

5. *Madras Observatory Publications in store at the end of 1889*.—No change occurring in this list since 1888, its reprinting is unnecessary until after the issue of the next volume in hand.

6. *Service Books*.—These are in order as required.

ORDER—dated 4th November 1890, No. 740, Public.

Recorded.

2. The report was received more than four months after the date on which it was due.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Government Astronomer.

ENDORSEMENT—dated 4th November 1890, No. 741, Public.

Copy to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture.

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. A. Raitt.

4TH NOVEMBER 1890, Nos. 740, 741, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From N. R. POGSON, Esq., C.I.E., Government Astronomer, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 13th October 1890.

I have the honor to submit my brief report upon the proceedings of the Madras Observatory during the year 1889, with regret that it is so long behind time. The inevitable interruptions arising from necessary repairs of the buildings and chief instruments, referred to in the report, are not yet quite over, and everything else has had to suffer in consequence.

ENCLOSURE.

ADMINISTRATION Report upon the Madras Observatory for the year 1889.

The year 1889 was one of serious interruptions to the general routine of the Observatory work and to the publications in hand. In last year's report it was stated that the distribution of the second volume of the new series of "Madras Meridian Circle Observations, 1865, 1866 and 1867," was commenced in December, and that the third volume, comprising the star observations made in 1868, 1869 and 1870, was nearly ready for press. Owing to severe illness of the Astronomer during the first quarter of the year, the distribution of the second volume and the completion of the press copy for the third were unavoidably delayed; the former task being out of hand early in February, but the printing of the third volume not being commenced until April. Long illness of two assistants, one of whom since died, and the disabling of another by his prosecution on a charge of collusion in an examination fraud, for which he was subsequently convicted and dismissed the service, were also inevitable sources of further delay. In November the imminent collapse of the roof of the transit circle room required the immediate dismantling of the instrument and the almost complete suspension of all other duties, except the time signals and meteorological records, for some months following, while the buildings and the instrument were undergoing thorough repair and renovation. In consequence of this unfortunate combination of disasters, the printing of the third volume was only half through at the end of the year, with a certain prospect of its being most vexatiously retarded during a considerable part of the following year, until the repairs and remounting of the transit circle were out of hand.

2. *Observations.*—The ordinary time determinations were made with the transit circle until November 16th, and afterwards with a small transit instrument by Dolland. The only works attempted with the equatorials were, the observation of an occultation of Jupiter on April 20th; observations on four nights in July and August of a comet, discovered by Professor Davidson, of San Francisco, and an unsuccessful search for the planet Vera in October, when probably too faint for the largest instrument available at Madras. The smaller instruments described in the reports for 1885 and 1886 were all in fair order, but the chief instruments required thorough cleaning before they could be pronounced fit for work. The transit circle has been in constant use since 1862; the Troughton and Simms equatorial since 1866, and the smaller one, by Lerebours and Secretans, since 1846; and without complete dismantling and renovation it cannot be expected that they can now be in efficient working order. The time has arrived when all three must be taken in hand, but the task is a very formidable one and will be a source of inevitable delay to publication and all other pursuits until completed.

3. *Madras Mean Time.*—This is communicated several times daily to the Madras public and to the shipping in a variety of ways, besides a daily time roll to the Government Telegraph Office at 4 P.M., which is passed on throughout India to Government telegraph stations, with sufficient accuracy for all ordinary purposes. The Fort time-gun is the chief and most trustworthy of the local signals. It was fired with unerring accuracy at noon and 8 P.M. on 717 occasions out of 730 in 1889, making a percentage 98½ correct signals—the highest yet attained since its electrical discharge was first undertaken in 1870. Yet an insignificant

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14/10/90. 682. 20

Public

C. N. 2990.

78

Order 44 Nov. 90, No. 740
Printed 2/11/90

Recorded.

2. This report was received more than four months after the date on which it was due.

From the Government Astronomer

To the Chief Secretary to Govt. of Madras.

Madras Observatory
1890. October 13.

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J.D.B.

24/11/90 - No. 741

To the Govt Astronomer

Submitting Administration Report upon the Madras Observatory for the year 1889.
18/11/90.

Copy to the Govt of India, Dept of Revenue and Agriculture

5-1 Copies
Despatched 18/11/90.

C. 28/10

W.D.

(7)

18

C No 2990.

Madras Observatory,
1890 October 13.

From

N. R. Pogson, Esq., B.Sc.,

Government Astronomer.

To

The Hon. J. F. Price
Chief Secretary to Government Madras.

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I have the honor to be

Sir
Your most obedient servant.

N. R. Pogson
Government Astronomer

Encls

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Encls 760-41
4-11-90

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& cleaning than the other, which is well sheltered &
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