

(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 8-12

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள்

(3) ஆதாரக் குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

பெரிய துறை

அரசாணை எண். 667-668
மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.

அச்சகம்
பலவகை

நாள் : 6-8-1891

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மடிக்கவோ துன்புடையோ கையாளவோ கூடாது.

No. 21.

The Observatory,
Madras 29th July 1891.

From

The Offg. Government Astronomer,
Madras.

To

The Honble J. F. Price,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit,
enclosed, my report on the Madras Observations
for the year 1890.

I have the honor

Sir,

your most obedient servant

C. Michie Smith.

Offg. Govt. Astronomer

Administration Report upon the Madras Observations
for the year 1890.

At the close of 1889 the third volume of the Madras Meridian Circle Observations was reported to be only half through & serious delay was anticipated in completing it. This anticipation was unfortunately, justified & the volume was not completed till after the middle of 1890, & though the first volumes were issued in September the distribution was not completed within the year; very little work was done on Volume IV. The delay was chiefly due to the causes mentioned in last report - the cleaning, re-erection, & readjustment of the transit circle & equatorials. The whole of this work had to be carefully superintended by

by the Astronomer himself & the adjustments after the instruments had been re-erected had to be made entirely by him. The repairs to the transit circle were in hand at the close of 1889 & when these were completed the Troughton & Simms Equatorial was dismantled, thoroughly cleaned, & re-erected. This was an operation of considerable difficulty especially when it had to be carried out by men with no previous experience in work of the kind. After re-erection the instrument was carefully adjusted by the Astronomer & is now in better condition than it has been for many years past. The Lerebours & Secreston equatorial, erected in 1850, was similarly treated, so that now all the chief instruments of the Observatory are in thoroughly good condition. Much credit is due to Messrs. P. Orr & Sons
for

for the efficient manner in which they conducted their part of the work.

2. Observations. The time determinations were continued, chiefly by the Astronomer himself, with the small Dollond transit instrument till the beginning of July, when the Transit circle was again ready for use. Since then they have been made exactly as in former years. No other observations of any importance were made during the year.

3. Madras Mean Time. Time signals were sent from the Observatory exactly as in the previous year, & the accuracy of the service was fully maintained. The Time Gun was fired correctly at noon & 8 p.m. on 709 out of 730 occasions in 1890, giving 97% of correct signals. During the first 11 months of the year there were only 5 failures.

The Semaphore at the Marine Office worked less satisfactorily as it failed to

to drop on a number of occasions. The electrically controlled clocks worked fairly well throughout the year, & the daily 4 p.m. roll was sent with accuracy to the Government Telegraph Office & thence distributed throughout India.

4. Meteorology. The Observatory Meteorological register was continued in the form which has been in use since 1861, so that there is now a 30-year series of observations conducted on a uniform plan by carefully trained assistants working under close supervision. When other duties permitted it one of the assistants was engaged in preparing these observations for publication.

The Meteorology of 1890 was abnormal in several respects. The most marked departures from the average were in the wind velocity & rainfall. The daily wind velocity was only 14.4 miles, or 84 per cent of the average, & this circumstance probably accounts to a large extent for the

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