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G.O., No. 1098

DATED 20.8.97.

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Kodaikanal Observatory.

Communicating to the Govt. Astronomer
Copy of despatch from the Secy. of
State intimating that arrangements
have been made for the supply of
the additional instruments
required for the —.

24/8/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Government { 1897 } of Madras PUBLIC.

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Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 1098, 20th August 1897.

AUGUST.

Kodaikanal Observatory.

Communicating to the Government Astronomer copy of despatch from the Secretary of State intimating that arrangements have been made for the supply of the additional instruments required for the —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following papers :—

G.O., No. 225, Public, dated 14th February 1896.

ABSTRACT.—Communicating to the Government Astronomer copy of a despatch addressed to the Secretary of State by the Government of India on the subject of the equipment of the Observatory to be constructed at Kodaikānal, and requesting him to submit exact details and specifications of the instruments that are required.

G.O., No. 398, Public, dated 20th March 1896.

Read—the following paper :—

Endorsement of the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Meteorology), dated Calcutta, 12th March 1896, No. 674—22-1.

Read—the following telegram from His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 9th March 1896 :—

Your Revenue despatch No. 6, 29th January last. Complete equipment Madras Observatory sanctioned.

Forwarded to the Government of Madras, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from this department, No. 182—33-8, dated the 25th January 1896.

(By Order.)

(Signed) F. G. SLY,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Order—No. 398, Public, dated 20th March 1896.

Communicated to the Government Astronomer, in continuation of G.O., No. 225, Public, dated 14th February 1896.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Government Astronomer.

G.O., Mis. No. 1356, Public, dated 30th December 1896.

Read—the following letter from F. G. SLY, Esq., C.S., Under Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Meteorology), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, 12th December 1896, No. 2899—22-5 :—

I am directed to forward a copy of a letter from the Government Astronomer, Madras, No. 250, dated the 17th November 1896, requesting that certain instruments sanctioned for the Solar Physics Observatory at Kodaikānal may be supplied in time to enable him to take part in the observations of the total eclipse of the sun in January 1898.

2. The application should have been submitted through the Local Government and I am to request that the irregularity of addressing the Government of India direct may be pointed out to Mr. Michie-Smith. But I am to add that the Government of India have no objection to the proposal, provided that it is accepted by the Madras Government.

3. The exceptional nature of the opportunity for observing the eclipse which the receipt of the instruments will afford appears to justify the expenditure of the small sum of £180 earlier than would otherwise be necessary, and, on hearing that the Madras Government accept the proposal, the Secretary of State for India will be asked to make the necessary arrangements. If the Madras Government support Mr. Michie-Smith's proposal, it would be convenient if the specifications to which he refers were forwarded with your reply to this letter.

ENCLOSURE.

From the Government Astronomer, Madras, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, dated the 17th November 1896, No. 230.

I have the honour to address you on the following matter regarding certain of the instruments that have been sanctioned for the Kodaikānal Solar Physics Observatory.

2. It is of great importance that the Madras Observatory should be able to take a due share in the work of observing the total solar eclipse of January 1898. The eclipse is one of more than ordinary interest since it will take place near the time of a sunspot minimum while the conditions are such as to render it almost certain that suitable weather will be available for the observations.

3. Of the instruments sanctioned for the Kodaikānal Observatory several will be well suited for eclipse work, and I am anxious that these should be ready in time. The most important are (1) the 40-foot lens, (2) the heliostat, (3) the spectroscope and (4) the twin telescope.

4. Of these No. 3 is ready and Nos. 1 and 2 are under construction and should be ready in ample time. The order for No. 4 has not yet been given.

5. This instrument would be most valuable for the eclipse work as it could be used both for photographing the outer corona and for carrying one of the spectroscopes. The mounting for this purpose would have to be slightly heavier than was originally intended so as to give the necessary stability for the spectroscope.

6. It would also be a great advantage to obtain the chronometer and certain of the minor apparatus. This is not absolutely essential as it will probably be possible to borrow what is required; but as the instruments will be required at Kodaikānal a few months later, it would seem best to order them at once.

7. The necessary specifications for the instruments required can be forwarded at once if the necessary sanction is obtained.

Order—Mis. No. 1356, Public, dated 30th December 1896.

Communicated to the Government Astronomer, whose attention will be directed to paragraph 2 in view to his explaining his irregular action.

2. The specifications referred to should be submitted for transmission to the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. T. ARUNDEL,
Ag. Chief Secretary.

To the Government Astronomer.

G.O., Mis. Nos. 82, 83, Public, dated 27th January 1897.

Read—the following papers :—

From C. MICHIE-SMITH, Esq., Government Astronomer, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Nungumbaukam, 7th January 1897, No. 10.

With reference to G.O., Mis. No. 1356, Public, dated 30th December 1896, paragraph 1, I have the honour to state that I regret the irregularity of my action, which was due to my supposing that the Secretary to the Government of India (Revenue

and Agriculture Department) knew better than I did what was the correct form of procedure in the matter. I had discussed the matter personally with Mr. Eliot, Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India, and, after he had seen the Secretary, he wrote me as follows:—

“With respect to early supply of some of the instruments needed for Kodaikānal and which you wish to use for eclipse work, he [Mr. Ibbetson] suggests you should write direct to Revenue and Agriculture Department, or through me (whichever you choose), and state what you require—and they will write at once to the Secretary of State Revenue and Agriculture Department indented for the instruments and not Madras—and hence he thinks it best for you to come up at once to head-quarters on this matter.”

2. I trust this explanation will be found to be satisfactory.

From C. MICHIE-SMITH, Esq., Government Astronomer, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Nungumbaukum, 9th January 1897, No. 11.

With reference to paragraph 2 of G.O., Mis. No. 1356, Public, dated 30th December 1896, I have the honour to forward, in triplicate, the specifications referred to.

2. With reference to the first instrument in the list, I have to request permission to forward the instrument, which is to be re-mounted, to Sir Howard Grubb so that it may reach him as soon as possible, as the time for doing the work is short.

ENCLOSURE.

Specification.

Apparatus for the Kodaikānal Observatory.

I. *The Re-mounting of the Lerebour and Secretan Equatorial.*—The 6-inch Lerebour and Secretan Equatorial of the Madras Observatory is to be re-mounted as a twin telescope with the 6-inch Grubb photographic lens of the Observatory. The mounting to be of the “English” form and, as much as possible, of the existing mounting to be used.

A new driving clock of Grubb’s form with Russell’s control for use in long exposures to be supplied.

The mounting will be carried on two stone piers so that no pillars are required. It must be strong and rigid enough to carry a small spectroscope weighing about 10 lb.

ESTIMATE (ROUGH), £75.

To be carried out by Sir Howard Grubb.

II. *Chronometer.*—A sidereal time chronometer by Kullberg. If it will not add greatly to the cost this should be supplied with 1-second electrical contacts—omitting one second in each minute.

ESTIMATE, £50.

III. *Minor Apparatus.*—(a) Induction coil giving a 4-inch spark with two Leyden jars and a chromic acid battery to work it.—L. Casella, £18.

(b) Six vacuum tubes for spectroscopic work containing the following pure gasses:—

(1) Hydrogen; (2) Oxygen; (3) Nitrogen; (4) Carbonic oxide; (5) Helium; (6) Argon; and stand for holding them.—Casella or Hilger, £2-10-0.

(c) Twelve small incandescent lamps for illuminating micrometers, &c.

HILGER, £0-18-0.

(d) A plain mirror, 6-inch diameter, on stand, £1-10-0. (This does not require a worked surface only a selected piece of good plate glass.)

(e) A heliostat of Dr. Johnston Stoney’s pattern, as made by Sir Howard Grubb.

GRUBB, £14.

All these instruments must be delivered in Madras at the latest before the end of November 1897 as they are required for the eclipse in the following January.

Order—Mis. No. 82, Public, dated 27th January 1897.

The specifications will be forwarded to the Government of India.

2. The explanation submitted by the Government Astronomer in the former of his letters read above will be accepted, and the proposal in paragraph 2 of the latter approved. He will be authorized to take the necessary action at once. The Government of India will be informed accordingly.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Government Astronomer.

Copy to the Accountant-General.

Letter—Mis. No. 83, Public, dated 27th January 1897, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture.

With reference to Mr. Sly’s letter, No. 2899—22-5, of the 12th ultimo, I am directed to forward (in duplicate) the specifications alluded to in paragraph 3 thereof, with an expression of the concurrence of this Government in the arrangement suggested by the Government Astronomer. That officer has requested permission to forward the first instrument * mentioned in

* The Lerebour and Secretan Equatorial. the list direct to Sir Howard Grubb for remounting so that it may reach him as

soon as possible. This he has been authorized to do in anticipation of the approval of the Government of India.

2. Adverting to the request in paragraph 2 of the letter under reply that the irregularity of addressing the Government of India direct might be pointed out to Mr. Michie-Smith, I am directed to state that he explains that he discussed the matter personally with Mr. Eliot, the Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India, who, after having seen you, wrote to him as follows:—

“With respect to early supply of some of the instruments needed for Kodaikānal and which you wish to use for eclipse work, he (Mr. Ibbetson) suggests you should write direct to Revenue and Agriculture Department, or through me (whichever you choose), and state what you require—and they will write at once to the Secretary of State Revenue and Agriculture Department indented for the instruments and not Madras—and hence he thinks it best for you to come up at once to head-quarters on this matter.”

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

G.O., Mis. No. 366, Public, dated 2nd April 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Telegraphing to the Government of India that the equatorial was forwarded direct to Sir H. Grubb by the S.S. “Clan Macnab,” which sailed from Madras on the 6th March 1897.

G.O., Mis. No. 256, Public, dated 10th March 1897.

Read—the following letter from DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Meteorology), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, 26th February 1897, No. 502—8-4:—

With reference to your letter, No. 83, Public, dated 27th ultimo, I am directed to inform you that the specification of the apparatus for the Kodaikānal Observatory required for the observation of the eclipse of the sun in January 1898 has been forwarded for sanction to Her Majesty’s Secretary of State for India.

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of your letter under reply, I am directed to request that it may be pointed out to Mr. Michie-Smith that demi-official correspondence should never be quoted as authority in an official letter.

Order—Mis. No. 256, Public, dated 10th March 1897.

Communicated to the Government Astronomer, with reference to his letter, Nos. 10 and 11, dated 7th and 9th January last, respectively. Mr. Michie-Smith's attention will be invited to paragraph 2 of the letter from the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Government Astronomer.

READ—also the following paper:—

Endorsement of the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Meteorology), dated Simla, 31st July 1897, No. 2084—8-9.

Read—the following despatch from His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 1st July 1897, No. 102, Revenue:—

With reference to the Revenue and Agricultural letter of your Government, No. 8, of 24th February last, I have to inform your Excellency in Council that arrangements have been made for the supply of the additional instruments required for the Kodaikanal Observatory. The total cost will be about £250, not £161, as estimated in the specifications forwarded with your letter under reply, it having been found impossible to re-mount the equatorial satisfactorily for less than about £160.

Forwarded to the Government of Madras, for information, with reference to the correspondence ending with its telegram, No. 234, dated the 2nd April 1897.

(By Order.)

(Signed) E. MACONCHIE,
Offg. Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

ORDER—No. 1098, Public, dated 20th August 1897.

Communicated to the Government Astronomer.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Government Astronomer.

Ed. W. D'Moss.

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Public (1897) Department.

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From

The Govt. of India
R. & N. Dept.

Communicated

16/8/97

No. 2084
8-9

To the Govt. Astronomer

Dated 31. 7. 97

Received 6. 8. 97

Registered 7. 8. 97

Enclosures 1-

Note: As it was originally thought Spare copies -

would be for the purpose of India's letter

recorded in for 1356 Rs. 14.2.96. Mr. Michie-Smith

calculated it would be 1161.18 + (160-75) = 1246.18

in round numbers (vide specifi. the Secretary of State for India

in flag D with for 27.1.97) or 3.102. Revenue dated 1st July '97

including the "plane meridian stand" regarding the supply of additional

It is now reported that instruments required for the

but will be 250, the item Kodaikanal Observatory.

"synoidal" proving to be 160-75

but 160

11/8/97

SUBJECT.

Forwarding despatch from the Secretary of State for India 3.102. Revenue dated 1st July '97 regarding the supply of additional instruments required for the Kodaikanal Observatory.

* 161.18 + (160-75) = 246.18 or allowing margin £250.

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