

Public (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 44-45.

DATED 14. 1. 97

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Requesting information of the Govt of Ceylon
in regard to the telegraphic arrangements
between Madras, Colombo and the time-signal
arrangements at the latter place, in view to
better transmission of time-signals to Colombo
being secured.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
C no	1458	of 1897					

[Pub.
20
1,000-25-10-00.]

R. no 239.

Public (189) Department.

Operator
Cud 6 Dec 26 98.
Referred to the Govern.
in out astronomer
for favour of remarks.

CURRENT No. 7135

by order

A. L. Hannay
Agst Secy. 18/12/98
From The Colonial Secy.,
Colombo.

Order

SDB.
18.12.6.

Sub-SG-George.
19 Dec 1896 }

No.

TO BE RETURNED
WITH REPLY.

Dated 7
Received 10
Registered 11 } 12-26
Enclosures - 2.
Spare copies -

SUBJECT.

Requesting that steps may
be taken to secure the better
transmission of time signals
to, Colombo.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	668/9	Pul	25/6/96
	403/4	"	14/6/92
	531	"	25/4/71
	1689	"	8/11/59

176 1966.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Copy referred to.

The Master Attendant
Colombo.

Sir,

Replying to your letter No. 421 dated 19th instant, I have the honour to inform you that I have done my best to get automatic transmission of the time signal at Madras Synchronously with automatic retransmission in Colombo; and much regret that I can do no more.

X X X X X X

I am, etc,

(Sgd) G. O. Walker
Supt. of Telegraphs.

No. 202.

Master Attendant's Office
Colombo 2nd December 1896

Time Signal from Madras.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that for some time past the signal transmitting time from Madras has been irregular and unreliable.

2. I addressed the Superintendent of Telegraphs on the subject to which he replied as per copy of his reply annexed hereto.

3 X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X

I am, etc,

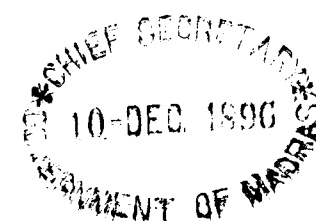
(Sgd) J Donckels.

Master Attendant.

The Honorable

The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, December 189



No.

Sir,

In forwarding to you the enclosed copy of a letter from the Master Attendant Colombo together with its annexure, I am directed to state that this Government will be much obliged if steps can be taken to secure the better transmission of time signals to Colombo.

I am, Sir,
your Obedient Servant

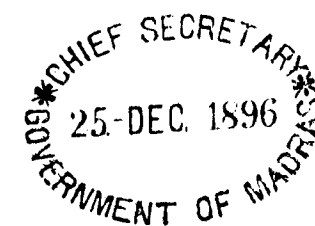
The Honble

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St George
Madras

For Colonial Secretary

Public (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 15



From

*The Govt. Astronomer,
Madras.*

der

No. 256

Dated 24th December 1896

Received

Registered

Enclosures one.

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

*Returning with
remarks the endorsement No.
2608, dated 19 December 1896, —
regarding the better trans-
mission of time signals to
Colombo.*

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

THE OBSERVATORY,
NUNGUMBAKKUM,

No. 256

Madras, 24 December 1896.

FROM

THE GOVERNMENT ASTRONOMER,
Madras.

To

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. Arundel,
Ag Chief Secretary to Government.

SIR,

With reference to your endorsement.
No. 2698, dated 18 December 1896, I have the honor to
state that I have been aware for some time that the
Colombo time signal was untrustworthy but as I am
in no way responsible for the signal, I was unable
to interfere in the matter.

2. Since the Colombo authorities have not seen
fit to give any details as to the nature of the
defects in the time signal, it is impossible for
me to say how matters are to be put right but
there are three possible causes of error.

viz. (1) Want of accuracy in the transmission
of the signal from the Observatory.

(2) Telegraphic delays between Madras and
Colombo.

(3) Defective arrangements at Colombo.

3. As regards the first of these, I can assert with confidence that, so far as the Observatory is concerned, the signal is transmitted with perfect regularity and with an accuracy amply sufficient for all practical purposes, the error rarely if ever amounting to as much as half a second.

4. As regards the second, I am not in a position to say whether or not the telegraphic transmission from Madras to Colombo is satisfactory. If the signal is transmitted by hand at Pambour, it is probable that a considerable amount of uncertainty is thus introduced, and it would be well if this could be remedied.

5. As regards the third cause of uncertainty, I would point out that on the 30 July 1896 the time signal was wrong by no less than 26^s and that there was the same error in the Port Office Chronometers. Such an error could hardly be due to any telegraphic error and I have good reason for believing that the care exercised in receiving and giving the signal at Colombo is not such as to insure accuracy.

6. The signal sent to Colombo at present is the ordinary 4 P.M. signal which is transmitted all over India daily. It is not, by any means, an
ideal

ideal signal for rating chronometers by, but it is found to give satisfactory results for ordinary purposes. If the authorities at Colombo wish for a separate and more satisfactory signal, there would be no difficulty, so far as the Observatory is concerned, in sending such a signal but I do not know whether the telegraph authorities would be able to free the line for the purpose.

7. If the authorities at Colombo will give me full details of their present arrangement and of the defects which they have found in the existing system, I will be then in a position to say how I think they can be improved. The information I have at present as to the plan adopted for using the signal sent from, is quite unauthoritative and I do not care to criticise it or what may be, and I trust is, inaccurate information.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Charles Smith

Govt. Astronomer.

Colombo Time Signal

[G.
24.]

500-28-10-06.

Public DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in proceedings:—

Again G.O., dated

189 , No.

Again G.O., dated

189 , No.

Current No. 4135 of 1896, dated 7. XII, from The Colonial Secy, Colombo

" " 15 " 1897, " 24. XII, " " Govt Astronomer
(76)

" " " 189 , " , "

cs.

ORDER. N^o. 44 of 14-1-97.
His

The Colonial Secretary
Colombo, will be addressed

To the Govt. Astronomer.

N^o 45.
Letter to

The Honble the Colonial Secy
Colombo.

Sir,

Regarding the transmis-
sion of time signals
to Colombo

With reference to your
letter of the 7th ultimo, I
am directed to state that
the Govt Astronomer reports
that he has for some time
past been aware of the
untrustworthiness of the
Colombo time signal, but
that being in no way
responsible for the signal
he was unable to inter-
fere in the matter. Advert.
2.

to the three possible causes of error, viz,

- (1) want of accuracy in the transmission of the signal from the observatory,
 - (2) Telegraphic delays between Madras and Colombo,
 - and (3) Defective arrangements at Colombo,
- the foot Astronomer reports as follows:-

"As regards the first of these I can assert with confidence that, so far as the observatory is concerned, the signal is transmitted with perfect regularity and with an accuracy amply sufficient for all practical purposes, the error rarely ^{ever} amounts to as much as half a second."

"As regards the second, I am not in a position to say whether or not the telegraphic transmission from Madras to Colombo is satisfactory. If the

that as far as the ^{Madras Observatory} is concerned the signal is transmitted with an accuracy amply sufficient for all practical purposes, the error rarely amounting to as much as half a second.

The foot astronomer is unable

is not in a position to suggest the best means of remedying the defects now existing.

by hand at Saumben, it is probable that a considerable amount of uncertainty is thus introduced and it would be well if this could be remedied.

3 With reference to the third possible cause the foot Astronomer points out that on the 30th July 1896 the time signal was wrong by no less than 26 seconds, and that there was the same error in the Post Office Chronometer; and that ~~such~~ ^{this error} could hardly be due to any telegraphic error. In the absence, however, of any details as to the present arrangement at Colombo, and as to the nature of the defects in the existing system time signal, the foot Astronomer feels himself precluded from criticising the system in a vague or suggesting any improvements. He states that the signal sent to Colombo at present is the ordinary 4 P.M. signal which is transmitted all over India daily, and that, though by no means an ideal signal for rating chronometer

chronometers by, it is found to give satisfactory results for ordinary purposes.

(1) If however the Colonial Govt desires a separate and more satisfactory signal there would be no difficulty for ~~the Observatory~~ ^{the Observatory} reports in sending such a signal ^{as far as the Observatory is concerned}.

(2) ~~the G.O.~~ is unable to say whether the telegraph authorities would be able to free the line for the purpose.

4. I am therefore to suggest that full details regarding the points referred to in paragraph 3 above may, if convenient, be furnished.

the information required by the G.O. in reference to the telegraphic arrangements between Madras & Colombo & the time signal arrangements at Colombo

9.1.97

12/1/97

12/1/97

ccv
7.1.97

When given for copying 14/1
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

189

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL

N.B.-

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only