M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-26.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	2857	Press ~~Mis.~~
248-49 Dated	13-11- 19 1868	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 248. Read the following letter from the Government Astronomer and Meteorological Superintendent, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Madras Observatory, 22nd October 1868 :—

I have the honor to request your consideration of the following suggestions, in reply to the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 19th October 1868, received yesterday, immediately after the despatch of a letter in reference to the same subject (the Rain Gauges). Referring to the separate paragraphs of your order seriatim :—

1. None of the tin gauges made at the Public Works Workshops were correct, but all too small, even if the glasses received from England had been perfectly correct. The errors in the latter were far from slight, but would alone have caused differences of five and six per cent. in the amount of rain registered at any station.

2. As none of the gauges are correct, I cannot conscientiously pass them as being so without alteration. As above stated, the errors of the glass measures are so far from being slight or immaterial that the returns would be wholly and unnecessarily vitiated by neglecting to allow for their defects.

3. As each gauge contains a glass bottle, the measure cannot be packed inside, and, in any other way, is pretty certain to get separated from the gauge to which it belongs.

4. If the Board of Revenue will place the whole management of the rain measurements, including the despatch of the gauges, entirely in my own hands, I will undertake to supply them as promptly as they can be furnished fit for issue by the Public Works Department. If, however, I am not thus supported in my desire to ensure reasonable, and very easily attainable, accuracy, I forewarn the Board that the future Rain Reports, however carefully registered, will be as worthless and rough as in past years, and the expense already incurred for their improvement mere waste.

5. As stated in my letter of yesterday to the Secretary to the Board, I have not hitherto been able to pass a single gauge fit for issue. Some are now ready, and, if permitted in my own way, I will lose not a day in forwarding them to their destinations. The delay is *indeed inexcusable*, but certainly no fault of mine. It is not in the despatch of the rain gauges alone, but in a variety of other matters, such as the Public Time Signals, the Subject of Tank Evaporation, and the Great Eclipse, that my best and most earnest endeavours to accomplish what I knew to be of advantage to the service, and creditable to the Observatory, have been thwarted, frustrated, and partially defeated, by the apathy of the Superintendent of the Public Works Stores and Workshops ; but as the subject of such complaints is now no more, I trust I shall not be called upon for explanations in self-defence, but rather guarded from any possibility of experiencing further disappointment by the cessation of any attempt at co-operation with a department which has so signally failed me for several years past.

6. In the printed copy of my letter, dated September 22nd, on the first page of the Proceedings, all the numbers are given with an additional cypher after the decimal point, as if I expected to attain accuracy to four decimal places. Thousandths only will be found in my original letter, and, as I have stated at its close,

"*hundredths*" even would have been passed, had the funnels been within so coarse a limit of workmanship.

No. 249. ORDER THEREON, 13th November 1868, No. 2,857.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government desire to know from Mr. Pogson the dates of receipt by him of the several batches of rain gauges, and the dates of their return to the Public Works Department Stores for correction. Without this information before them, the Government are unable to determine whether Mr. Pogson or the late Superintendent of the Public Works Stores is responsible for the delay, already noticed, which has occurred in carrying out their orders in regard to the distribution of the new rain gauges. Mr. Pogson will also again be called upon to state why he permitted the numerous communications of the Board of Revenue, which were addressed to him between the 11th of May 1867 and the 21st September 1868, to remain, without exception, unanswered and unacknowledged.

2. The proposed correction of each rain gauge, in order to make it correspond with a single glass measure, which is constantly liable to be broken, is obviously altogether out of the question. The gauges should all be made correct in themselves, and the course pointed out in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the G. O., under date 19th October 1868, No. 2,653, should be followed as far as possible. If necessary, the number of the rain gauge, to which it has been allotted, should be marked with a diamond, and by a pasted label on each glass measure.

3. The proposals contained in paragraph 4 of Mr. Pogson's letter will be referred for the consideration and disposal of the Board of Revenue, but, whatever may be the views of the Board in the matter, Mr. Pogson will, no doubt, recognise that it is his duty to carry out the definitive orders, which he may receive, to the best of his ability without remonstrance or demur.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Government Astronomer.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Public Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 522.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 26th January 1869.

Read the following:—

Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 13th November 1868, No. 2,857, Revenue Department.

ABSTRACT.—*Rain Gauges.*—Mr. Pogson to submit information with reference to the delay in carrying out the Orders of Government regarding their distribution after correction.

Letter from N. R. POGSON, Esq., Government Astronomer and Meteorological Superintendent, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 6th November 1868.

ABSTRACT.—*New Rain Gauges.*—Instructions for use of —, forwarded.

Letter from the same Officer, dated 7th November 1868.

ABSTRACT.—*Rain Gauges* intended for Kistna District.—Despatch of —, intimated.

Madras.....	7	Gauges.....	26th Oct. 1868.
Kistna	11	do.	16th Nov. ,,
Ganjam	12	do.	7th Dec. ,,
Coimbatore.....	10	do.	11th ,, ,,
Neilgherries ...	1	do.	11th ,, ,,

AT the earnest request of Mr. Pogson, the issue of rain gauges as proposed by him has been acquiesced in, as a tentative measure, and the following districts have been supplied to the extent and on the dates specified in the margin:—

Madras. Coimbatore.
Kistna. Neilgherries.
Ganjam.

Tinnevelly. Bellary.
Tanjore. Cuddapah.

2. The next districts in the list for supply are those mentioned in the margin.

3. The Board now desire to learn what progress has been made in further testing and preparing gauges, in order that they may definitely dispose of the matter as directed in paragraph 3 of the Government Order.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Acting Secretary.

To the Government Astronomer.
,, the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores and Workshops.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Board I have not hitherto been able to pass a single gauge fit

Govt. of {1868} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE GOVERNMENT ASTRONOMER,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated November, 13th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 13th November 1868, *No.* 2,857.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 248-249.

Rain gauges.—Mr. Pogson to submit information with reference to the delay in carrying out the orders of Government regarding their distribution after correction.

Board's Proc. not sufficient to form a single page Ltr

BOARD OF REVENUE, MADRAS.

1869.

PROCEEDINGS, 26TH JANUARY 1869, No. 522.

Encl.

Received

JANUARY.

No. 522.

Rain Gauges.—Information requested relative to further testing and preparation of,

Madras Observatory, October 22nd 1868.

From

N. R. Pogson, Esq.,
Government Astronomer and Meteorological Superintendent.

To

R. A. Dalyell. Esq.
Secretary to Government — Revenue Department.

Sir,

I have the honor to request your consideration of the following suggestions, in reply to the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 19th October, 1868, received yesterday, immediately after the despatch of a letter in reference to the same subject (the Rain Gauges). Referring to the separate paragraphs of your Order seriatim: —

1st. — None of the tin gauges made at the Public Works Workshops were correct, but all too small, even if the glasses received from England had been perfectly correct. — The errors in the latter were far from slight, but would alone have caused differences of five and six per cent in the amount of rain registered at any station. —

2. As none of the gauges are correct I cannot conscientiously pass them as being so without alteration. As above stated, the errors of the glass measures are so far from being slight or immaterial, that the returns would be wholly and unnecessarily vitiated by neglecting to allow for their defects. —

3. — As each gauge contains a glass bottle, the measure cannot be packed inside, and in any other way is pretty certain to get separated from the gauge to which it belongs. —

4. — If the Board of Revenue will place the whole management of the Rain measurements, including the despatch of the gauges, entirely in my own hands, I will undertake to supply them as promptly as they can be furnished fit for issue by the Public Works Department. — If however I am not thus supported in my desire to ensure reasonable and very easily attainable accuracy, I forewarn the Board that the future Rain Reports, however carefully registered, will be as worthless and rough as in past years, and the expense already incurred for their improvement mere waste. —

5. — As stated in my letter of yesterday, to the Secretary to the Board, I have not hitherto been able to pass a single gauge fit

for issue. — Some are now ready, and if permitted in my own way I will lose not a day in forwarding them to their destinations. — The delay is indeed inexcusable, but certainly no fault of mine. — It is not in the despatch of the rain gauges alone, but in a variety of other matters, such as the public Time Signals, the subject of Tank Evaporation, and the great Eclipse, that my best and most earnest endeavours to accomplish what I knew to be of advantage to the Service and creditable to the Observatory ~~Have~~ have been thwarted, frustrated and partially defeated, by the apathy of the Superintendent of the Public Works Stores and Workshops; but as the subject of such complaints is now no more, I trust I shall not be called upon for explanations in self defence, but rather guarded from any possibility of experiencing further disappointment by the cessation of any ~~a~~ "aspiration" at co-operation with a Department which has so signally failed me for several years past. —

6. — In the printed copy of my letter dated September 22nd on the first page of the Proceedings all the numbers are given with an additional cypher after the decimal point as if I expected to attain accuracy to four decimal places. — Thousandths only will be found in my original letter and as I have stated at its close "hundredths" even would have been passed had the funnels been within so coarse a limit of workmanship

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
H R Pogson
Government Astronomer. —

22/10
Rec'd

No. 2807.

Revl. Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 13 ~~October~~ November 1868.

Read the following
letter from the Government
Astronomer & Meteorological
Superintendent.

Submitting for consideration certain suggestions on the subject of Rain Gauges } (R.C. 22nd October 1868)

Noted
1
Ag A

— The Government desire to know from Mr. Pogson the dates of receipt by him, of the several batches of rain gauges and the dates of their return to the P.W.D. Stores for correction. Without this information before them

Item, the Government are unable to determine whether Mr. Pogson or the late Superintendent of the Public Works Stores is responsible for the very great delay which has been permitted to take place, in carrying out their orders in regard to the distribution of the new rain gauges - Mr. Pogson will also again be called upon to state why he permitted the numerous communications of the Board of Revenue, which were addressed

already noted

assured

addressed to him between the 11th of May 1867 and the 21st September 1868, to remain without exception unanswered and unacknowledged.

2 The proposed correction of each Rain gauge, in order to make it correspond with a single glass measure which is constantly liable to be broken, is obviously altogether out of the question. The gauges should all be made correct in themselves, and the course pointed out

in

in para: 2 and 3 of the
G. O. under date 19th October/68
No. 2653, should be followed
as far as possible. If
necessary, the number of
the Rain gauge to which it
has been allotted should
be marked with a diamond,
and by a pasted label
on each glass measure.

3 The proposals
contained in para 4 of
Mr. Pogson's letter
will be referred for
the consideration and
disposal of the Board
of Revenue, but whatever
may be the decision of
the Board in the
matter, Mr. Pogson
will

for peremptory
substitute
no doubt recognise
that it is his duty
to carry out the
definite orders which
he may receive, without
remonstrance or
demur.

will please to understand
that it is his duty to
carry out such orders
as he may receive, to the
best of his ability
and without cavil or
demur.

1 Copy Letter Govt Astronomer
1½ Spares — P.C. of Revt
2 — P.O. Dept
5 — Public Debtt

60
4

Ed. Thornhill

Revenue 1868 Despatch

No. 2857

Proceedings of the
Madras Government

Dated 13th November 1868.-

248-249