

No. 155. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th September 1871, No. 3,861:—

Read the following letter from N. R. POGSON, Esq., Government Astronomer and Meteorological Superintendent, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 4th September 1871.

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue No. 3,453, dated August 23rd, 1871; your official memorandum No. 1,154, dated September 2nd, 1871; and the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, of August 18th and September 1st; I have the honour to express my regret that I was unable to comply with the demands therein made by the required date, namely, the 31st ultimo. The despatch of the Assistant Government Astronomer to England, with full instructions as to the instrumental wants for the Eclipse expedition in December next, and the packing and examination of about four cwts. of meteorological instruments which he was ordered to take with him, so absorbed my whole time and attention that to obey the orders of Government upon that point I was compelled to leave all else undone, and as a necessary consequence I now find myself in arrears upon several matters, while short-handed, owing to the absence of my English Assistant. I trust this explanation will be accepted.

2. With regard to the five stations from which telegraphic reports of the rain are called for, I consider that the places best adapted to meet the views of the Secretary to the Government of India. Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce, are Cochin, Masunpatam, Negapatam, Bellary, and Trichinopoly. All these stations are, I believe, in telegraphic communication with Madras. If Kurnool and Madura had been so, I should have suggested them in preference to Bellary and Trichinopoly, but the latter stations will answer just as well.

3. I am by no means clear as to what is really required, whether rain returns only, *i.e.*, depth of rain in inches (to hundredths) and the number of days of rain, or if any other meteorological result is not also desired, such as temperature, general weather, etc. I hope not, for such hasty information must necessarily be very rough, as meteorological records unreduced are of course incorrect, and the systematic and final reduction of the records is made for every station only at the Madras Observatory, usually within a month of the submission of each copy of the local registers.

4. Presuming that only the fortnightly rainfall up to every alternate Tuesday is required, I beg to be informed as to whether the returns are to pass through my hands, or to be forwarded direct to your office. I consider the former far preferable, and, if I get my messages all in on the Wednesday morning, you can have the return the same day. If required on the Tuesday, the fortnightly report must close with 10 P.M. on the Monday night, and in any case, I fear occasional delays cannot be entirely avoided, unless some stringent orders are conveyed to the Medical Officers in local charge at each station.

5. With regard to the payment of the telegrams, in any case they must, I believe, be paid for at the time. It is hard to require the Native Assistants to advance the fees, and I cannot *compel* the Medical Officers in charge to do so; neither is there any provision for such unforeseen expenditure in the budget.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th September 1871.*

estimate of the Meteorological Department for the current year. The cost of five fortnightly rain telegrams will be Rs. 130 per year, or will such service messages be free?

6. If the five stations suggested meet with your approval, and I am required to procure the numbers for the next report, namely, the rainfall from August 30th to Tuesday September 12th, and to supply the same to you on Wednesday the 13th, I beg the earliest possible intimation of such being expected. The post to Masulipatam takes from five to seven days, but I could make my first inquiry by telegraph, and explain what is wanted to each Medical Officer in charge before the next returns were due on the 27th instant.

Read again Government Order, dated 18th August 1871, No. 1,409, recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd August 1871, No. 3,653.

In this letter Mr. Pogson replies to the Board's Proceedings dated 23rd ultimo, No. 3,653, calling upon him to select five stations for the purpose indicated by the Secretary to the Government of India (Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce—Meteorology), in his letter dated 31st July 1871, No. 25, and explains (not very satisfactorily) the delay that has occurred in the submission of his report.

2. He proposes to call for reports from *Cochin* on the West Coast, *Masulipatam* on the East Coast, northerly, *Negapatam* on the East Coast, southerly, and, for the Inland stations north and south, he suggests Bellary and Trichinopoly; but would have preferred Kurnool and Madura had these stations been in telegraphic communication with Madras. As to this the Board observe that there is still a Telegraph Office at Kurnool, and they trust there will always be. Trichinopoly is perhaps too near Negapatam to make returns from both places very valuable; but as the Board believe Mr. Pogson has no Assistant at Palamcottah, and there is no Telegraph Office at Madura, Trichinopoly is probably the only station in the south where trustworthy telegraphic reports of rainfall could be obtained.

3. The Board therefore have only to suggest the substitution of Kurnool for Bellary, as Mr. Pogson apparently considers it a more representative district in a meteorological point of view. They are, however, of opinion that returns might be more conveniently submitted from *Calicut* alone than from *Cochin* and *Calicut* combined, and that they would be of a more valuable character, as indicating the state of the season in this Presidency.

4. With reference to paragraph 3 there is no doubt the Government of India simply wish to know the actual rainfall in inches (to hundredths) for the previous fortnight.

5. The information being required up to the day previous to the despatch of the telegram to the Government of India, must necessarily be submitted direct to Government. A copy might be sent to the Government Astronomer, with a view to his checking the return of rainfall, and correcting any errors that may have crept into it. With ordinary care, however, on the part of the officer recording the observation, there appears to be no reason to apprehend the occurrence of serious mistakes.

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6. The telegrams will of course be charged in the Collector's contingent bills as usual. There will be no need for any of Mr. Pogson's Assistants to telegraph (except at *Cochin*); they will merely have to submit the statement of rainfall every alternate Wednesday morning to the Collector (or Deputy-Collector) for inclusion in the general return. At *Cochin* the Assistant should submit it by telegraph to the Collector of Malabar, and, if necessary, he must have a permanent advance allowed him. This difficulty would be obviated by the adoption of Board's suggestion in paragraph 3 *supra*.

7. A copy of these Proceedings and of all the papers on the subject will be communicated at once to all the Collectors concerned for their information and for communication to their respective Zillah Surgeons, and they will be requested to hold themselves in readiness to act upon general telegraphic instructions direct from Government.

8. There is no reason why the return due on the 13th instant should not be submitted in time, except perhaps from *Cochin*.

No. 156. ORDER THEREON, 12th September 1871, No. 1,583.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government approve the selection of—

Masulipatam,
Negapatam,
Kurnool,
Trichinopoly, and
Calicut,

as the stations whence the fortnightly telegraph reports of rainfall in the previous fourteen days; and brief statements of agricultural prospects are to be despatched direct to Government for transmission to the Government of India, as directed by them. The first report should be for the fortnight ending Tuesday 26th September, and should reach Government on Wednesday 27th, so as to be despatched the same day by telegraph to the Government of India.

(True Extract)

(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

.. the Collector of the Kistna District.
.. the do. Tanjore.
.. the do. Kurnool.
.. the do. Trichinopoly.
.. the do. Malabar.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No 1583

12 Sept 1840

Inf. app. to the selection
of Manuscripts
Manuscripts
Manuscripts
and Calicut

at the Clarendon House
the fortnightly telegraphic
reports of the
in the previous fortnight
days. and the selection
of agricultural prospects
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and the selection of the
Govt of India. as
directed by the
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